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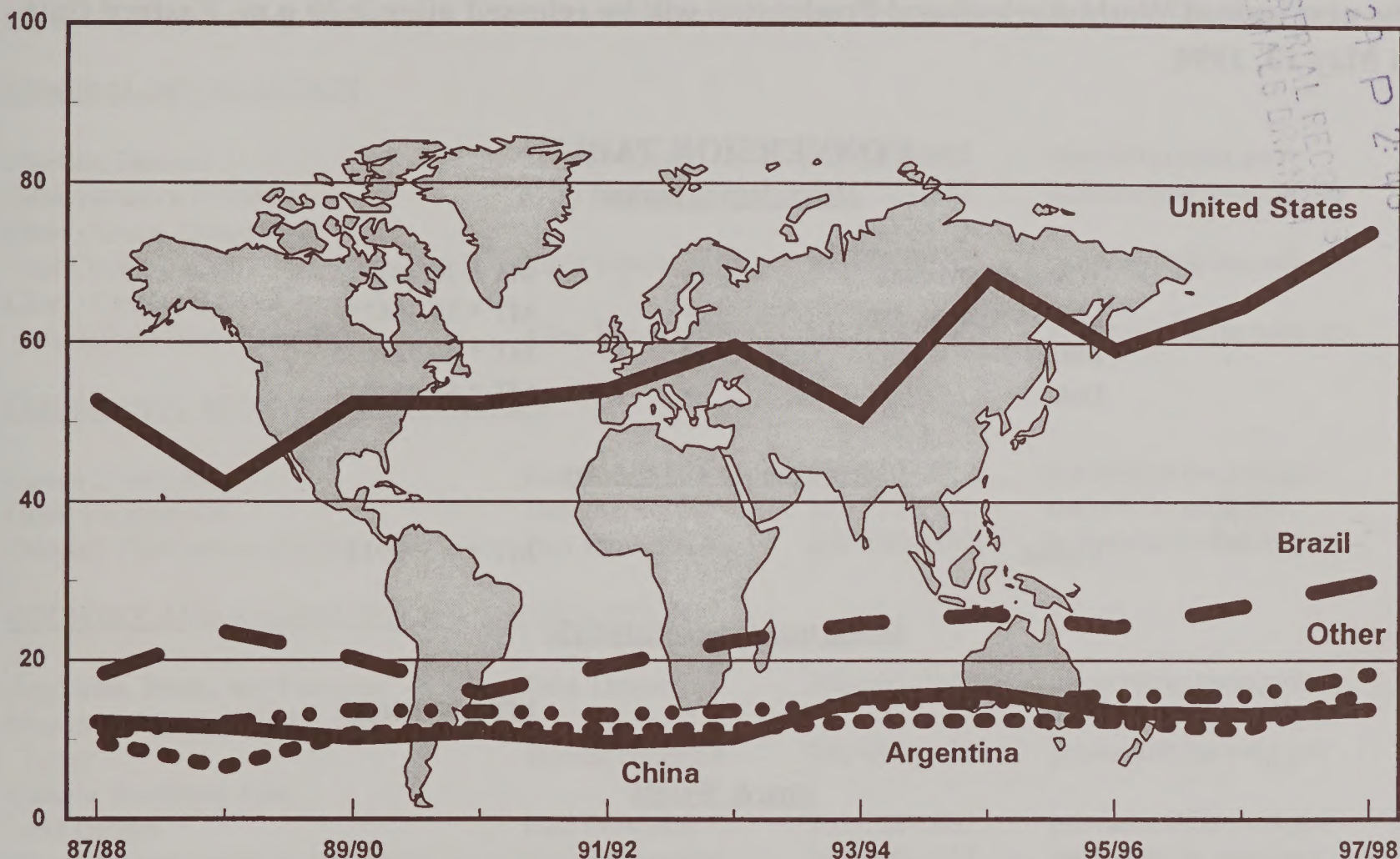
Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
WAP 04-98
April 1998

World Agricultural Production

World Soybean Production by Major Countries

MMT



Production Articles This Month...

World Soybeans

1998 Winter Grain Prospects In The Northern Hemisphere

South Africa Grain Situation

This report draws on information from USDA's global network of agricultural attaches and counselors, official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source materials, and results of office analysis. Estimates of U.S. acreage, yield, and production are from the USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board, except where noted. This report is based on unrounded data; numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. This report reflects official USDA estimates released in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE-337) April 9, 1998.

This report was prepared by the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division (PECAD), FAS/USDA, AgStop 1045, Washington, D.C. 20250-1045. Further information may be obtained by writing to the division, by calling (202) 720-0888, or by FAX (202) 720-8880.

The next issue of World Agricultural Production will be released after 3:30 p.m. Eastern time on May 13, 1998.

CONVERSION TABLE

Metric tons to bushels

Wheat & soybeans	=	MT * 36.7437
Corn, sorghum, rye	=	MT * 39.36825
Barley	=	MT * 45.929625
Oats	=	MT * 68.894438

Metric tons to 480-lb bales

Cotton	=	MT * 4.592917
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Metric tons to hundredweight

Rice	=	MT * 22.04622
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Area & Weight

1 hectare	=	2.471044 acres
1 kilogram	=	2.204622 pounds

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PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS FOR 1997/98

April 1998

WHEAT

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>1997/98</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>from</u> <u>1996/97</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Comments</u>
World	609.8	+0.6	+0	+5	Production is estimated at a record level due to an increase in the total foreign category.
United States	68.8	NC	NC	+11	Production is unchanged from last month.
Total Foreign	541.0	+0.6	+0	+4	Production is estimated at a record due to increases in Argentina, Romania, and Morocco.
Argentina	14.5	+0.2	+1	-9	Production is estimated up based on harvest progress reports indicating higher yield.
Romania	7.2	+0.2	+3	+127	Production is estimated higher based on official statistics indicating an increase in yield.
Morocco	2.3	+0.2	+10	-61	Production is revised higher due to an increase in yield. Harvest was completed during the spring of 1997.

COARSE GRAINS

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>1997/98</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>from</u> <u>1996/97</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Comments</u>
World	898.9	+2.4	+0	-1	Production is projected higher due to an increase in the total foreign category.
United States	265.4	NC	NC	-1	Production is unchanged from last month.
Total Foreign	633.5	+2.4	+0	-1	Production is estimated higher as increases in Argentina, South Africa, Egypt, Hungary, Thailand, Baltic States, and Morocco more than offset decreases in Mexico, Colombia, EU-15, India, and Turkey.
Argentina	23.6	+2.3	+11	+24	Production is estimated at a record as favorable weather and increased use of high yielding varieties boosted corn yield to a record. Also, sorghum is revised higher.
South Africa	8.5	+0.5	+6	-10	Production is estimated higher as favorable rainfall and moderate temperatures increased corn yield potential.

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Div., FAS, USDA

COARSE GRAINS, continued

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>1997/98</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>from</u> <u>1996/97</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Egypt	6.9	+0.3	+5	+5	Production is estimated higher as an increase in corn yield more than offset a decline in harvested area.
Hungary	8.1	+0.2	+3	+15	Production is estimated higher due to harvest results indicating higher corn yield.
Thailand	3.7	+0.2	+6	-10	Production is estimated higher due to increased corn area and yield.
Baltic States	2.8	+0.2	+9	+5	Production is estimated higher due mainly to an increase in barley for Lithuania. Coarse grains were revised slightly higher for Latvia and lower for Estonia.
Morocco	1.7	+0.2	+13	+57	Production is estimated higher for corn as official data indicated increases in corn area and yield.
Mexico	24.3	-0.5	-2	-8	Production is estimated lower for corn as dry weather reduced area and yield.
Colombia	0.9	-0.4	-30	-30	Production is estimated lower for corn and sorghum as area and yield declined due to dry weather.
EU-15	108.9	-0.3	-0	+5	Production is revised lower due to decreases in corn area and yield in Greece.
India	30.7	-0.3	-1	-11	Production is estimated lower due to official harvest results indicating a reduction in barley area and yield.
Turkey	10.1	-0.2	-2	+3	Production is estimated lower for corn due to a reduction in area, but higher for barley as yield increased.

WORLD RICE (MILLED BASIS)

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>1997/98</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>from</u> <u>1996/97</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Comments</u>
World	381.4	-0.9	-0	+0	Production is still projected at a record level despite a decrease this month in the total foreign category.
United States	5.8	NC	NC	+7	Production is unchanged from last month.
Total Foreign	375.5	-0.9	-0	+0	Production is estimated lower due to a decrease in Burma and Bangladesh.
Burma	8.9	-0.7	-7	-1	Production is estimated lower as floods reduced area and yield for the monsoon crop. The second crop has been plagued by untimely rain, pests, disease, and insufficient use of inputs.
Bangladesh	18.2	-0.3	-1	-3	Production is estimated lower as unfavorable weather reduced the Aman crop.

OILSEEDS

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>1997/98</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>MMT</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>from</u> <u>1996/97</u> <u>(%)</u>	<u>Comments</u>
World	282.8	-0.8	-0	+8	Production is forecast lower due to decreases in the United States and the total foreign category.
United States	84.6	-0.0	-0	+13	Production is estimated down based on a slight decline in peanuts.
Total Foreign	198.2	-0.8	-0	+6	Production is estimated lower based on declines in India and Argentina.
India	25.6	-0.5	-2	-4	Production of cottonseed is forecast lower due to lower cotton arrivals at receiving stations.
Argentina	22.7	-0.3	-1	+31	Production is forecast lower as heavy and persistent rainfall at harvest reduced prospects for cottonseed and sunflowerseed. A higher estimate for peanuts due to favorable weather and an upward revision in harvest area offset part of the decline in production.

PALM OIL

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> MMT	1997/98 <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> MMT	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> (%)	Change from <u>1996/97</u> (%)	<u>Comments</u>
World	17.6	NC	NC	+1	No change this month. Record production is forecast.

COTTON

<u>Country</u>	<u>-----</u> <u>Current</u> <u>Estimate</u> MBALES	1997/98 <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> MBALES	<u>-----</u> <u>Monthly</u> <u>Change</u> (%)	Change from <u>1996/97</u> (%)	<u>Comments</u>
World Total	89.2	-0.9	-1	+0	Production is forecast lower due to decreases in the United States and the total foreign category.
United States	18.8	-0.2	-1	-1	Production is estimated down due to the 1997 ginning results.
Total Foreign	70.4	-0.7	-1	+0	Production is estimated down due to lower output in India, Argentina and other producers, offsetting a gain in Egypt.
India	11.2	-0.5	-4	-19	Production is forecast down based on total cotton arrivals at gins by the end of March relative to earlier years. Last year's production was a record.
Argentina	1.9	-0.2	-10	+27	Production is forecast lower due to heavy and prolonged rainfall in the main cotton area, reducing potential yield.
Egypt	1.6	+0.1	+7	-1	Production is estimated up due to an increase in gin lint output.

TABLE 1

U.S. Crop Acreage, Yield, and Production

COMMODITY	Planted Area			Harvested Area			Yield			Production		
	1995/96	1996/97	Proj. 1997/98	1995/96	1996/97	Proj. 1997/98	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Mar. Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Mar. Apr.
All Wheat Winter Other	--Million acres--			--Million acres--			--Bushels per acre--			--Million bushels--		
	69.1	75.6	71.0	60.9	62.9	63.6	35.8	36.3	39.7	2,183	2,285	2,527
	48.7	52.0	48.3	41.0	39.7	41.8	37.7	37.2	45.0	1,545	1,477	1,883
	20.4	23.6	22.7	19.9	23.2	21.8	32.1	34.8	29.6	638	808	644
Soybeans	62.6	64.2	70.9	61.6	63.4	69.9	35.3	37.6	39.0	2,177	2,382	2,727
Corn	71.2	79.5	80.2	65.0	73.1	73.7	113.5	127.1	127.0	7,374	9,293	9,366
Sorghum	9.5	13.2	10.1	8.3	11.9	9.4	55.6	67.5	69.5	460	803	653
Barley	6.7	7.1	6.9	6.3	6.8	6.4	57.3	58.5	58.3	360	396	374
Oats	6.3	4.7	5.2	3.0	2.7	2.9	54.7	57.8	60.5	162	155	176
Rice							--Pounds per acre--			--Million CWT--		
	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.0	5,621	6,121	5,896	173.9	171.3	178.9
All Cotton										--Million 480-pound bales--		
	16.9	14.6	13.8	16.0	12.9	13.3	536	707	686	17.9	18.9	18.8

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 2
World Crop Production Summary

Commodity	World	Total Foreign	North America		Europe		FSU-12	Asia				South America		Selected Other			All Others				
			United States	Canada	Mexico	Europe Union		Oth. Europe	W. Europe	Eastern Europe	China	India	Indonesia	Paki- stan	Thai- land	Argen- tina		Brazil	Aus- tralia	South Africa	Turkey
---Million metric tons---																					
Wheat																					
1995/96	537.5	478.1	59.4	25.0	3.1	86.2	1.3	35.0	59.3	102.2	65.5	0.0	17.0	0.0	8.6	1.5	16.5	2.0	15.5	39.5	
1996/97 prel.	582.4	520.2	62.2	29.8	3.5	98.5	2.2	26.4	63.0	110.6	62.6	0.0	16.9	0.0	15.9	3.2	23.7	2.7	16.0	45.3	
1997/98 proj.																					
Mar.	609.2	540.4	68.8	24.3	3.8	94.5	0.7	34.8	79.6	124.0	69.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	14.3	2.8	19.0	2.3	16.0	38.8	
Apr.	609.8	541.0	68.8	24.3	3.8	94.5	0.7	34.8	79.6	124.0	69.0	0.0	16.7	0.0	14.5	2.8	19.0	2.3	16.0	39.1	
Coarse Grains																					
1995/96	801.9	592.4	209.4	24.1	23.8	88.5	2.7	51.4	57.4	124.5	29.7	6.0	1.9	3.9	14.1	33.2	9.6	11.0	9.4	101.2	
1996/97 prel.	908.1	640.5	267.6	28.2	26.3	103.8	3.7	49.6	52.3	141.3	34.3	6.0	1.8	4.1	18.9	36.6	10.1	9.5	9.5	104.5	
1997/98 proj.																					
Mar.	896.4	631.0	265.4	25.2	24.8	109.2	2.8	57.9	67.8	122.4	31.0	5.7	1.9	3.5	21.3	33.8	8.9	8.0	10.3	96.8	
Apr.	898.9	633.5	265.4	25.2	24.3	108.9	2.8	58.2	67.8	122.4	30.7	5.7	1.9	3.7	23.6	33.8	8.9	8.5	10.1	97.1	
Rice (Milled)																					
1995/96	371.2	365.6	5.6	0.0	0.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	129.7	79.6	33.2	3.9	14.4	0.6	6.8	0.7	0.0	0.2	94.1	
1996/97 prel.	379.9	374.5	5.4	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.7	136.6	81.2	32.0	4.3	13.7	0.8	6.6	1.0	0.0	0.3	95.4	
1997/98 proj.																					
Mar.	382.2	376.4	5.8	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	138.5	82.0	30.9	4.3	14.3	0.8	6.5	0.9	0.0	0.3	95.1	
Apr.	381.4	375.5	5.8	0.0	0.3	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.8	138.5	82.0	30.9	4.4	14.3	0.8	6.5	0.9	0.0	0.2	94.2	
Total Grains 1/																					
1995/96	1710.6	1436.1	274.5	49.2	27.2	175.9	4.0	86.5	117.5	356.4	174.8	39.2	22.8	18.3	23.3	41.6	26.8	12.9	25.1	234.8	
1996/97 prel.	1870.4	1535.2	335.2	58.0	30.1	203.8	5.9	76.0	116.0	388.5	178.2	38.0	23.0	17.8	35.6	46.5	34.8	12.2	25.8	245.1	
1997/98 proj.																					
Mar.	1887.8	1547.8	340.0	49.5	28.9	205.3	3.4	92.7	148.1	384.9	182.0	36.6	22.8	17.8	36.3	43.1	28.8	10.3	26.6	230.7	
Apr.	1890.0	1550.0	340.0	49.5	28.4	205.1	3.4	93.0	148.1	384.9	181.7	36.6	22.9	18.0	38.8	43.1	28.8	10.8	26.4	230.4	
Oilseeds 2/																					
1995/96	259.7	190.6	69.1	8.8	0.7	13.1	0.1	5.3	11.3	43.3	24.9	2.6	4.0	0.5	19.2	25.0	1.4	1.1	2.2	27.0	
1996/97 prel.	261.4	186.6	74.8	7.3	0.6	12.8	0.1	4.6	8.5	41.4	26.6	2.4	3.7	0.5	17.3	27.5	1.8	0.8	1.9	28.8	
1997/98 proj.																					
Mar.	283.6	199.0	84.6	9.0	0.6	14.5	0.1	4.4	9.1	40.9	26.1	2.4	3.6	0.5	22.9	30.8	2.0	0.8	1.9	29.4	
Apr.	282.8	198.2	84.6	9.0	0.6	14.5	0.1	4.4	9.1	40.9	25.6	2.4	3.6	0.5	22.7	30.8	2.0	0.8	2.0	29.4	
Cotton																					
1995/96	93.0	75.1	17.9	0.0	1.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	8.3	21.9	13.3	0.0	8.2	0.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	0.2	3.9	10.4	
1996/97 prel.	89.2	70.2	18.9	0.0	1.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	6.5	19.3	13.8	0.0	7.3	0.0	1.5	1.3	2.8	0.2	3.6	11.1	
1997/98 proj.																					
Mar.	90.1	71.1	19.0	0.0	0.9	2.2	0.0	0.0	7.3	19.7	11.7	0.0	7.0	0.0	2.1	1.9	3.0	0.2	3.3	11.7	
Apr.	89.2	70.4	18.8	0.0	0.9	2.2	0.0	0.0	7.3	19.7	11.2	0.0	7.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	3.0	0.2	3.3	11.7	

1/ Includes wheat, coarse grains, and rice (milled) shown above.

2/ Includes soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, rapeseed for individual countries. Copra and palm kernel are added to world totals.

Note: Entries of 0.0 indicate no reported or insignificant production.

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 3
Wheat Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	219.52	230.69	229.53	229.33	2.45	2.52	2.65	2.66	537.53	582.41	609.18	609.80	0.62	0.10	27.39	4.70
United States	24.66	25.47	25.73	25.73	2.41	2.44	2.67	2.67	59.40	62.19	68.76	68.76	0.00	0.00	6.57	10.56
Total Foreign	194.86	205.23	203.80	203.60	2.45	2.53	2.65	2.66	478.13	520.22	540.42	541.04	0.62	0.11	20.82	4.00
Major Exporters	41.52	47.44	45.04	45.03	3.28	3.54	3.38	3.38	136.30	167.91	152.08	152.33	0.25	0.16	-15.58	-9.28
European Union	16.16	16.74	17.14	17.13	5.33	5.89	5.51	5.52	86.16	98.51	94.48	94.53	0.05	0.05	-3.98	-4.04
France	4.75	5.02	5.11	5.11	6.50	7.15	6.66	6.66	30.86	35.94	34.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	-1.94	-5.40
United Kingdom	1.86	1.98	2.03	2.04	7.70	8.15	7.39	7.39	14.31	16.10	15.00	15.05	0.05	0.33	-1.05	-6.53
Germany	2.58	2.59	2.73	2.73	6.89	7.29	7.28	7.28	17.76	18.92	19.87	19.87	0.00	0.00	0.94	4.99
Canada	11.14	12.26	11.40	11.40	2.25	2.43	2.13	2.13	25.04	29.80	24.30	24.30	0.00	0.00	-5.50	-18.46
Australia	9.72	11.34	10.80	10.80	1.70	2.09	1.76	1.76	16.50	23.70	19.00	19.00	0.00	0.00	-4.70	-19.84
Argentina	4.50	7.10	5.70	5.70	1.91	2.24	2.51	2.54	8.60	15.90	14.30	14.50	0.20	1.40	-1.40	-8.81
Major Importers	88.12	92.35	93.13	92.99	2.34	2.34	2.69	2.70	205.82	216.19	250.56	250.94	0.38	0.15	34.75	16.07
China	28.86	29.61	30.00	30.00	3.54	3.73	4.13	4.13	102.22	110.57	124.00	124.00	0.00	0.00	13.43	12.15
FSU-12	45.36	47.43	47.56	47.56	1.31	1.33	1.67	1.67	59.32	62.97	79.59	79.59	0.00	0.00	16.62	26.39
Russia	23.91	25.72	25.70	25.70	1.26	1.36	1.72	1.72	30.10	34.90	44.20	44.20	0.00	0.00	9.30	26.65
Ukraine	5.48	5.89	6.50	6.50	2.97	2.30	2.83	2.83	16.27	13.55	18.40	18.40	0.00	0.00	4.85	35.79
Kazakhstan	12.55	12.20	11.50	11.50	0.52	0.63	0.75	0.75	6.49	7.70	8.65	8.65	0.00	0.00	0.95	12.34
Baltic States	0.41	0.52	0.55	0.57	2.36	2.68	2.62	2.69	0.96	1.40	1.44	1.55	0.11	7.29	0.15	10.75
Eastern Europe	9.71	8.76	9.97	9.81	3.60	3.02	3.49	3.55	34.98	26.40	34.75	34.81	0.06	0.16	8.41	31.84
Poland	2.41	2.48	2.55	2.55	3.60	3.46	3.24	3.24	8.67	8.58	8.25	8.25	0.00	0.00	-0.33	-3.83
Romania	2.42	1.80	2.35	2.35	3.18	1.76	2.98	3.06	7.70	3.17	7.00	7.19	0.19	2.66	4.02	127.05
Egypt	1.06	1.02	1.04	1.04	5.40	5.64	5.60	5.60	5.70	5.74	5.85	5.85	0.00	0.00	0.11	2.01
Morocco	1.70	3.21	2.50	2.49	0.65	1.84	0.84	0.93	1.10	5.92	2.10	2.32	0.22	10.33	-3.60	-60.84
Brazil	1.03	1.81	1.51	1.51	1.49	1.77	1.87	1.87	1.54	3.20	2.83	2.83	0.00	0.00	-0.37	-11.48
Other Foreign	65.22	65.44	65.63	65.58	2.09	2.08	2.10	2.10	136.01	136.12	137.78	137.77	-0.01	-0.01	1.65	1.21
India	25.60	25.12	26.00	26.00	2.56	2.49	2.65	2.65	65.47	62.62	69.00	69.00	0.00	0.00	6.38	10.19
Turkey	8.55	8.45	8.50	8.50	1.81	1.89	1.88	1.88	15.50	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pakistan	8.17	8.38	8.11	8.11	2.08	2.02	2.05	2.05	17.00	16.91	16.65	16.65	0.00	0.00	-0.26	-1.52
Mexico	0.93	0.81	0.92	0.81	3.73	3.84	4.13	4.69	3.47	3.11	3.80	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.69	22.30
Saudi Arabia	0.47	0.27	0.34	0.34	4.30	4.53	5.36	5.36	2.00	1.20	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.60	50.00
South Africa	1.36	1.29	1.38	1.38	1.43	2.09	1.65	1.65	1.95	2.70	2.28	2.28	0.00	0.00	-0.42	-15.44
Others	20.14	21.12	20.38	20.44	1.52	1.59	1.39	1.38	30.62	33.59	28.25	28.24	-0.01	-0.03	-5.35	-15.92

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

April 1998

TABLE 4
Total Coarse Grain Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	313.73	322.45	316.50	315.23	2.56	2.82	2.83	2.85	801.86	908.08	896.45	898.88	2.43	0.27	-9.21	-1.01
United States	33.55	38.38	37.55	37.55	6.24	6.97	7.07	7.07	209.44	267.56	265.42	265.42	0.00	0.00	-2.14	-0.80
Total Foreign	280.18	284.06	278.95	277.68	2.11	2.25	2.26	2.28	592.43	640.52	631.02	633.45	2.43	0.39	-7.07	-1.10
Major Exporters	21.57	23.57	22.24	22.39	2.91	3.01	3.01	3.12	62.72	70.90	66.88	69.88	3.00	4.49	-1.01	-1.43
Canada	6.97	8.00	7.63	7.63	3.46	3.52	3.31	3.31	24.12	28.19	25.22	25.22	0.00	0.00	-2.98	-10.57
Argentina	3.95	4.66	4.74	4.84	3.57	4.06	4.49	4.87	14.09	18.93	21.25	23.55	2.30	10.82	4.62	24.40
Australia	5.03	5.20	4.79	4.79	1.91	1.95	1.85	1.85	9.63	10.15	8.89	8.89	0.00	0.00	-1.26	-12.42
South Africa	4.32	4.34	3.89	3.89	2.54	2.19	2.06	2.19	10.99	9.53	8.03	8.53	0.50	6.23	-1.00	-10.45
Thailand	1.30	1.36	1.19	1.24	3.00	3.01	2.94	2.98	3.90	4.10	3.50	3.70	0.20	5.71	-0.40	-9.76
Major Importers	89.91	86.74	88.16	87.12	2.50	2.73	2.99	3.02	224.78	236.42	263.77	263.44	-0.33	-0.13	27.02	11.43
FSU-12	43.80	38.49	39.23	39.23	1.31	1.36	1.73	1.73	57.36	52.34	67.76	67.76	0.00	0.00	15.42	29.45
Russia	27.21	24.85	24.80	24.80	1.13	1.27	1.65	1.65	30.70	31.65	40.85	40.85	0.00	0.00	9.20	29.08
Ukraine	6.90	5.34	6.80	6.80	2.26	1.78	2.26	2.26	15.61	9.51	15.35	15.35	0.00	0.00	5.84	61.41
Kazakhstan	5.81	4.55	3.96	3.96	0.47	0.71	0.80	0.80	2.76	3.23	3.16	3.16	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-2.17
Baltic States	1.28	1.20	1.16	1.23	1.61	2.20	2.19	2.25	2.05	2.65	2.54	2.77	0.23	9.02	0.12	4.61
European Union	18.48	19.64	20.57	20.54	4.79	5.28	5.31	5.30	88.49	103.75	109.15	108.87	-0.29	-0.26	5.11	4.93
Germany	3.95	4.11	4.30	4.30	5.60	5.64	5.94	5.94	22.10	23.21	25.51	25.51	0.00	0.00	2.29	9.88
France	3.42	3.67	3.98	3.98	6.43	7.07	7.32	7.32	21.96	25.96	29.12	29.12	0.00	0.00	3.17	12.19
Eastern Europe	16.15	16.18	16.33	16.30	3.19	3.06	3.55	3.57	51.44	49.56	57.89	58.18	0.28	0.49	8.62	17.39
Poland	6.17	6.24	6.34	6.34	2.79	2.68	2.71	2.71	17.24	16.72	17.18	17.18	0.00	0.00	0.46	2.76
Romania	3.96	4.04	3.90	3.87	3.05	2.74	3.82	3.86	12.08	11.07	14.89	14.95	0.07	0.46	3.89	35.15
Czech Rep.	0.72	0.76	0.83	0.84	3.74	3.73	3.91	3.87	2.70	2.85	3.25	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.40	14.18
Mexico	9.83	10.86	10.50	9.45	2.43	2.43	2.36	2.57	23.85	26.33	24.75	24.25	-0.50	-2.02	-2.08	-7.89
Other W. Europe	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	4.23	4.74	4.56	4.29	1.59	1.79	1.69	1.62	-0.06	-3.74	-0.17	-9.43
Other Foreign	168.70	173.76	168.56	168.17	1.81	1.92	1.78	1.78	304.93	333.21	300.37	300.13	-0.24	-0.08	-33.08	-9.93
China	27.33	29.10	27.88	27.88	4.56	4.86	4.39	4.39	124.50	141.32	122.40	122.40	0.00	0.00	-18.92	-13.39
India	31.48	32.16	31.73	31.61	0.94	1.07	0.98	0.97	29.69	34.35	31.00	30.74	-0.26	-0.85	-3.61	-10.52
Brazil	14.33	14.21	13.19	13.19	2.32	2.58	2.56	2.56	33.24	36.63	33.81	33.81	0.00	0.00	-2.83	-7.71
Turkey	4.50	4.63	4.78	4.68	2.08	2.12	2.16	2.17	9.36	9.83	10.33	10.13	-0.20	-1.94	0.30	3.05
Indonesia	3.53	3.20	3.20	3.20	1.70	1.86	1.78	1.78	6.00	5.95	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-4.20
Philippines	2.76	2.72	2.70	2.70	1.57	1.55	1.56	1.56	4.32	4.22	4.20	4.20	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.36
Others	84.77	87.73	85.09	84.92	1.15	1.15	1.09	1.10	97.82	100.92	92.94	93.16	0.23	0.25	-7.76	-7.69

TABLE 5
Corn Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	134.23	140.93	139.89	138.68	3.84	4.20	4.17	4.22	515.50	591.43	583.46	585.83	2.37	0.41	-5.59	-0.95
United States	26.30	29.60	29.83	29.83	7.12	7.97	7.97	7.97	187.31	236.06	237.90	237.90	0.00	0.00	1.83	0.78
Total Foreign	107.92	111.33	110.06	108.84	3.04	3.19	3.14	3.20	328.19	355.36	345.57	347.94	2.37	0.69	-7.43	-2.09
Major Exporters	7.14	7.96	7.23	7.38	3.50	3.57	3.78	4.07	25.00	28.41	27.30	30.00	2.70	9.89	1.59	5.59
Argentina	2.70	3.40	3.30	3.40	4.11	4.56	5.00	5.44	11.10	15.50	16.50	18.50	2.00	12.12	3.00	19.35
South Africa	3.30	3.36	2.90	2.90	3.09	2.68	2.59	2.76	10.20	9.01	7.50	8.00	0.50	6.67	-1.01	-11.23
Thailand	1.14	1.20	1.03	1.08	3.25	3.25	3.20	3.24	3.70	3.90	3.30	3.50	0.20	6.06	-0.40	-10.26
Major Importers	20.95	21.56	22.94	21.81	3.79	3.92	4.31	4.51	79.36	84.43	98.84	98.40	-0.44	-0.44	13.97	16.55
Eastern Europe	6.85	7.04	6.85	6.84	3.62	3.62	4.54	4.61	24.77	25.46	31.13	31.53	0.40	1.27	6.07	23.83
Romania	3.12	3.29	3.05	3.03	3.18	2.92	4.10	4.18	9.92	9.61	12.50	12.68	0.18	1.44	3.07	31.95
Yugoslavia	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	3.85	3.62	4.52	4.52	7.70	7.60	9.50	9.50	0.00	0.00	1.90	25.00
European Union	3.73	4.10	4.32	4.30	7.83	8.50	8.90	8.85	29.22	34.79	38.41	38.06	-0.35	-0.91	3.27	9.39
France	1.62	1.72	1.84	1.84	7.64	8.41	9.13	9.13	12.39	14.43	16.80	16.80	0.00	0.00	2.37	16.41
Italy	0.94	1.02	1.03	1.03	8.97	9.33	9.47	9.47	8.45	9.55	9.78	9.78	0.00	0.00	0.23	2.42
Mexico	7.80	8.23	8.50	7.40	2.28	2.30	2.18	2.43	17.78	18.92	18.50	18.00	-0.50	-2.70	-0.92	-4.87
FSU-12	2.47	2.11	3.18	3.18	2.84	2.26	3.24	3.24	7.01	4.76	10.31	10.31	0.00	0.00	5.54	116.31
Russia	0.64	0.70	0.80	0.80	2.64	1.57	3.38	3.38	1.70	1.10	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.00	1.60	145.45
Ukraine	1.16	0.67	1.65	1.65	2.92	2.74	3.21	3.21	3.39	1.84	5.30	5.30	0.00	0.00	3.46	188.04
Other W. Europe	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	8.65	8.96	8.80	8.80	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.33
Others	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	4.60	3.96	3.96	4.17	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.29	0.02	5.49	0.02	5.49
Other Foreign	79.84	81.80	79.89	79.65	2.80	2.96	2.75	2.76	223.84	242.52	219.43	219.54	0.11	0.05	-22.99	-9.48
China	22.77	24.50	23.50	23.50	4.92	5.20	4.68	4.68	112.00	127.47	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00	-17.47	-13.71
Brazil	13.77	13.60	12.60	12.60	2.36	2.63	2.62	2.62	32.48	35.80	33.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	-2.80	-7.82
India	6.01	6.25	6.15	6.15	1.57	1.70	1.59	1.59	9.44	10.61	9.80	9.80	0.00	0.00	-0.81	-7.65
Canada	1.00	1.06	1.05	1.05	7.25	6.98	6.84	6.84	7.27	7.38	7.18	7.18	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-2.71
Indonesia	3.53	3.20	3.20	3.20	1.70	1.86	1.78	1.78	6.00	5.95	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-4.20
Philippines	2.76	2.72	2.70	2.70	1.57	1.55	1.56	1.56	4.32	4.22	4.20	4.20	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.36
Egypt	0.90	0.88	0.93	0.84	5.93	6.65	6.16	7.18	5.35	5.83	5.70	6.01	0.31	5.44	0.19	3.18
Zimbabwe	1.55	1.64	1.40	1.40	1.68	1.10	1.21	1.21	2.60	1.80	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-5.56
Others	27.55	27.96	28.36	28.21	1.61	1.55	1.49	1.49	44.37	43.47	42.15	41.95	-0.20	-0.47	-1.53	-3.51

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

April 1998

TABLE 6
Barley Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	69.04	66.41	66.18	66.09	2.07	2.32	2.35	2.35	142.75	153.99	155.39	155.38	-0.01	-0.01	1.39	0.90
United States	2.54	2.74	2.60	2.60	3.08	3.15	3.14	3.14	7.83	8.62	8.15	8.15	0.00	0.00	-0.46	-5.37
Total Foreign	66.50	63.67	63.58	63.49	2.03	2.28	2.32	2.32	134.92	145.37	147.24	147.23	-0.01	-0.01	1.85	1.27
European Union	10.77	11.38	11.91	11.89	4.06	4.55	4.42	4.44	43.71	51.72	52.68	52.73	0.05	0.09	1.01	1.95
Denmark	0.72	0.74	0.75	0.75	5.40	5.36	5.33	5.33	3.86	3.95	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	1.19
France	1.39	1.53	1.68	1.68	5.56	6.25	6.06	6.06	7.74	9.54	10.19	10.19	0.00	0.00	0.65	6.79
Germany	2.11	2.21	2.28	2.28	5.64	5.47	5.90	5.90	11.89	12.07	13.43	13.43	0.00	0.00	1.35	11.21
Italy	0.38	0.36	0.35	0.35	3.64	3.76	3.27	3.27	1.39	1.35	1.14	1.14	0.00	0.00	-0.22	-15.93
Spain	3.30	3.53	3.71	3.71	1.58	2.72	2.32	2.32	5.20	9.60	8.60	8.60	0.00	0.00	-1.00	-10.42
United Kingdom	1.19	1.27	1.33	1.33	5.73	6.14	5.86	5.91	6.83	7.78	7.80	7.85	0.05	0.64	0.07	0.90
FSU-12	25.87	20.62	21.08	21.08	1.21	1.35	1.63	1.63	31.40	27.93	34.35	34.35	0.00	0.00	6.42	22.98
Russia	14.71	11.85	12.50	12.50	1.07	1.34	1.66	1.66	15.80	15.90	20.80	20.80	0.00	0.00	4.90	30.82
Ukraine	4.41	3.43	3.70	3.70	2.18	1.67	2.00	2.00	9.63	5.73	7.40	7.40	0.00	0.00	1.68	29.26
Kazakhstan	4.79	3.60	3.20	3.20	0.45	0.75	0.81	0.81	2.18	2.70	2.60	2.60	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-3.70
Baltic States	0.94	0.81	0.73	0.83	1.56	2.30	2.29	2.33	1.46	1.87	1.67	1.94	0.27	16.17	0.07	3.91
Eastern Europe	3.41	3.31	3.66	3.65	3.30	2.92	3.31	3.29	11.25	9.69	12.11	12.00	-0.11	-0.92	2.32	23.91
Poland	1.05	1.13	1.24	1.24	3.13	3.04	3.11	3.11	3.28	3.44	3.87	3.87	0.00	0.00	0.44	12.71
Czech Rep.	0.56	0.60	0.65	0.65	3.84	3.77	3.93	3.93	2.14	2.26	2.54	2.54	0.00	0.00	0.27	12.07
Romania	0.57	0.50	0.62	0.62	2.98	2.22	3.23	3.06	1.70	1.11	2.00	1.89	-0.11	-5.55	0.78	70.18
Canada	4.37	4.89	4.70	4.70	2.99	3.18	2.90	2.90	13.04	15.56	13.65	13.65	0.00	0.00	-1.91	-12.29
Other W. Europe	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	3.82	4.49	4.27	4.00	0.88	1.03	0.96	0.92	-0.04	-4.17	-0.11	-10.85
Norway	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.18	3.29	3.83	3.88	3.54	0.58	0.67	0.66	0.62	-0.04	-6.06	-0.05	-7.46
Turkey	3.55	3.65	3.65	3.65	1.94	1.97	1.97	2.03	6.90	7.20	7.20	7.40	0.20	2.78	0.20	2.78
Australia	3.11	3.41	3.25	3.25	1.87	2.00	1.85	1.85	5.82	6.81	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	-0.81	-11.88
China	1.28	1.30	1.30	1.30	3.19	3.08	3.08	3.08	4.09	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morocco	1.30	2.43	2.00	2.00	0.46	1.58	0.65	0.66	0.60	3.83	1.30	1.32	0.02	1.85	-2.51	-65.44
India	0.89	0.82	0.88	0.76	1.94	1.83	1.93	1.89	1.73	1.51	1.70	1.44	-0.26	-15.53	-0.07	-4.90
Others	10.78	10.82	10.19	10.16	1.30	1.32	1.14	1.13	14.04	14.23	11.62	11.48	-0.14	-1.21	-2.75	-19.32

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TABLE 7
Oats Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	1995/96		1996/97		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1996/97		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
													MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
	18.45	17.69	17.00	17.02	1.56	1.73	1.82	1.82	28.83	30.59	31.01	31.03	0.02	0.06	0.44	1.44
	1.20	1.09	1.18	1.18	1.96	2.07	2.17	2.17	2.35	2.25	2.56	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.30	13.40
	17.25	16.60	15.82	15.84	1.54	1.71	1.80	1.80	26.48	28.34	28.45	28.47	0.02	0.06	0.14	0.48
	9.34	8.17	7.75	7.75	1.14	1.23	1.48	1.48	10.69	10.03	11.48	11.48	0.00	0.00	1.45	14.45
	7.93	6.93	6.50	6.50	1.08	1.20	1.45	1.45	8.60	8.30	9.40	9.40	0.00	0.00	1.10	13.25
	0.56	0.48	0.55	0.55	1.99	1.51	1.82	1.82	1.12	0.73	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	36.99
	0.33	0.30	0.30	0.30	2.12	2.33	2.33	2.33	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.16	1.64	2.04	2.07	2.13	0.22	0.32	0.31	0.34	0.03	8.39	0.02	5.66
	2.61	3.02	2.65	2.65	1.94	2.11	1.99	1.99	5.08	6.37	5.29	5.29	0.00	0.00	-1.08	-17.02
	1.20	1.68	1.50	1.50	2.38	2.59	2.32	2.32	2.86	4.36	3.49	3.49	0.00	0.00	-0.88	-20.09
	1.14	1.09	0.85	0.85	1.65	1.56	1.53	1.53	1.88	1.70	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	-0.40	-23.44
0.28	0.25	0.30	0.30	1.27	1.24	1.67	1.67	0.35	0.31	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.19	61.29	
Other Foreign	5.49	5.62	5.64	5.65	2.11	2.29	2.24	2.23	11.59	12.87	12.62	12.61	-0.01	-0.06	-0.26	-2.06
China	0.54	0.50	0.45	0.45	1.19	1.20	0.89	0.89	0.64	0.60	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-33.33
European Union	1.82	1.94	1.98	1.99	3.20	3.56	3.33	3.33	5.83	6.89	6.61	6.62	0.02	0.23	-0.26	-3.83
France	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.13	4.14	4.41	4.24	4.24	0.62	0.62	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-9.32
Germany	0.31	0.30	0.31	0.31	4.60	5.32	5.13	5.13	1.42	1.61	1.59	1.59	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-1.06
Italy	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	2.23	2.46	2.01	2.01	0.30	0.35	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-19.14
Finland	0.33	0.37	0.37	0.37	3.33	3.37	3.37	3.37	1.10	1.26	1.24	1.24	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-1.43
Sweden	0.27	0.28	0.32	0.32	3.47	4.32	4.05	4.05	0.95	1.20	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	0.07	6.25
Eastern Europe	1.14	1.16	1.18	1.18	2.23	2.19	2.42	2.42	2.53	2.54	2.85	2.85	0.00	0.00	0.31	12.12
Czech Rep.	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08	3.12	3.24	3.33	3.21	0.19	0.21	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.04	16.82
Poland	0.60	0.63	0.66	0.66	2.51	2.53	2.75	2.75	1.50	1.58	1.80	1.80	0.00	0.00	0.22	13.85
Yugoslavia	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.67	1.85	1.85	1.85	0.20	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Norway	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.10	3.80	4.18	3.91	3.59	0.35	0.40	0.36	0.34	-0.02	-6.32	-0.06	-14.96
Turkey	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1.83	1.72	1.79	1.79	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	1.42	1.41	1.43	1.43	0.61	0.66	0.63	0.63	0.87	0.93	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-3.32

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TABLE 8
Rye Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	10.01	10.76	10.55	10.50	2.19	2.07	2.31	2.31	21.89	22.23	24.36	24.29	-0.07	-0.28	2.06	9.27
United States	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.14	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-1.31
Total Foreign	9.86	10.62	10.41	10.37	2.20	2.07	2.32	2.32	21.64	22.00	24.13	24.06	-0.07	-0.28	2.06	9.38
FSU-12	5.03	5.96	5.78	5.78	1.48	1.51	1.87	1.87	7.46	9.00	10.82	10.82	0.00	0.00	1.82	20.19
Russia	3.23	4.13	4.00	4.00	1.27	1.43	1.88	1.88	4.10	5.90	7.50	7.50	0.00	0.00	1.60	27.12
Ukraine	0.61	0.63	0.70	0.70	2.00	1.75	1.93	1.93	1.21	1.10	1.35	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.25	22.73
Belarus	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.81	1.90	1.90	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baltic States	0.21	0.23	0.28	0.24	1.78	1.98	2.00	2.08	0.37	0.46	0.56	0.49	-0.07	-11.96	0.03	6.71
Major Exporter																
Canada	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.91	1.91	1.94	1.94	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.91
Other Foreign	4.46	4.27	4.19	4.20	3.03	2.86	2.97	2.97	13.50	12.23	12.45	12.45	0.00	0.00	0.22	1.82
Eastern Europe	2.72	2.66	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.32	2.34	2.34	6.93	6.16	5.96	5.96	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-3.26
Hungary	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	2.13	1.43	2.00	2.00	0.17	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.04	40.00
Poland	2.45	2.42	2.30	2.30	2.56	2.34	2.31	2.31	6.29	5.65	5.32	5.32	0.00	0.00	-0.33	-5.84
Czech Rep.	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.08	3.32	3.19	3.49	3.49	0.26	0.20	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.06	29.90
European Union	1.41	1.32	1.34	1.34	4.34	4.30	4.53	4.53	6.13	5.68	6.06	6.06	0.00	0.00	0.38	6.69
Denmark	0.10	0.07	0.09	0.09	5.00	4.76	5.33	5.33	0.50	0.34	0.48	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.14	39.94
France	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4.21	4.59	4.40	4.40	0.20	0.23	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-8.00
Germany	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.85	5.25	5.21	5.43	5.43	4.52	4.21	4.59	4.59	0.00	0.00	0.37	8.83
Spain	0.16	0.17	0.15	0.15	1.09	1.74	1.48	1.48	0.17	0.30	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-23.73
Austria	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.06	4.08	2.96	3.64	3.64	0.31	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.05	32.45
Sweden	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03	4.51	5.52	5.17	5.17	0.20	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-17.58
Turkey	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1.42	1.39	1.39	1.39	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.15	0.11	0.12	0.13	1.17	1.15	1.41	1.40	0.18	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.04	33.33

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TABLE 9
Sorghum Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	40.90	44.75	40.72	40.71	1.35	1.55	1.53	1.53	55.28	69.50	62.22	62.28	0.05	0.08	-7.22	-10.39
United States	3.35	4.82	3.80	3.80	3.49	4.24	4.37	4.37	11.69	20.40	16.59	16.59	0.00	0.00	-3.81	-18.66
Total Foreign	37.55	39.93	36.92	36.91	1.16	1.23	1.24	1.24	43.58	49.10	45.63	45.69	0.05	0.11	-3.42	-6.96
India	11.44	11.57	11.20	11.20	0.83	0.96	0.80	0.80	9.55	11.09	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	-2.09	-18.83
China	1.22	1.29	1.23	1.23	3.91	4.39	4.07	4.07	4.76	5.68	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	-0.68	-11.91
Mexico	1.73	2.32	1.70	1.75	3.21	2.95	3.41	3.31	5.57	6.86	5.80	5.80	0.00	0.00	-1.06	-15.39
Nigeria	6.40	6.45	6.50	6.50	1.02	1.02	1.08	1.08	6.50	6.60	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	6.06
Sudan	5.00	6.30	4.20	4.20	0.49	0.67	0.81	0.81	2.45	4.20	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	-0.80	-19.05
Argentina	0.63	0.68	0.75	0.75	3.32	3.70	4.27	4.67	2.10	2.50	3.20	3.50	0.30	9.37	1.00	40.00
Australia	0.65	0.56	0.56	0.56	2.38	2.15	2.13	2.13	1.56	1.21	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.99
Ethiopia	1.30	1.85	1.80	1.80	1.31	1.08	1.11	1.11	1.70	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colombia	0.17	0.10	0.12	0.06	3.20	3.05	3.33	2.50	0.55	0.29	0.40	0.15	-0.25	-62.50	-0.14	-48.28
Venezuela	0.19	0.15	0.16	0.16	1.62	1.62	1.61	1.61	0.30	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Egypt	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.16	5.24	4.35	5.10	4.91	0.78	0.60	0.77	0.77	0.00	0.13	0.16	26.82
Yemen	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1.03	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.46	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tanzania	0.69	0.67	0.63	0.63	1.22	1.32	0.80	0.80	0.84	0.88	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	-0.38	-42.86
Niger	1.50	1.50	1.40	1.40	0.20	0.27	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.40	0.43	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.03	6.25
South Africa	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.14	2.56	1.88	2.14	2.14	0.45	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thailand	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	5.70	5.59	5.77	5.77	0.97	1.00	0.99	1.00	5.52	5.60	5.74	5.74	0.00	0.00	0.14	2.52

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TABLE 10
Rice Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield (Rough)				Production (Milled)				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	148.05	149.00	149.30	148.67	3.72	3.78	3.79	3.80	371.19	379.94	382.23	381.37	-0.86	-0.22	1.43	0.38
United States	1.25	1.13	1.23	1.23	6.30	6.86	6.61	6.61	5.63	5.45	5.84	5.84	0.00	0.00	0.39	7.19
Total Foreign	146.80	147.87	148.07	147.44	3.70	3.75	3.77	3.78	365.56	374.49	376.38	375.53	-0.86	-0.23	1.04	0.28
Major Exporters	23.98	24.08	24.15	24.11	2.98	2.91	2.98	2.94	45.87	45.01	46.20	45.56	-0.64	-1.38	0.56	1.24
Vietnam	7.12	7.05	7.10	7.10	3.76	3.87	3.84	3.84	17.68	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thailand	9.03	9.18	9.20	9.20	2.41	2.26	2.36	2.36	14.39	13.70	14.30	14.30	0.00	0.00	0.60	4.38
Burma	5.67	5.60	5.65	5.49	3.00	2.77	2.93	2.80	9.86	9.00	9.60	8.90	-0.70	-7.29	-0.10	-1.11
Pakistan	2.16	2.25	2.20	2.32	2.73	2.87	2.93	2.83	3.94	4.31	4.30	4.36	0.06	1.49	0.06	1.32
Major Importers	16.05	15.61	15.31	15.31	4.09	4.13	4.11	4.11	43.55	43.11	42.08	42.08	0.00	0.00	-1.03	-2.40
Indonesia	11.57	11.07	10.80	10.80	4.42	4.45	4.40	4.40	33.22	32.02	30.90	30.90	0.00	0.00	-1.11	-3.48
South Korea	1.06	1.05	1.05	1.05	6.05	6.85	7.01	7.01	4.69	5.32	5.45	5.45	0.00	0.00	0.13	2.44
European Union	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.41	5.54	5.94	6.23	6.23	1.23	1.58	1.68	1.68	0.00	0.00	0.10	6.14
Iran	0.57	0.60	0.60	0.60	4.08	4.00	4.00	4.00	1.55	1.60	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nigeria	1.70	1.66	1.65	1.65	2.22	1.96	1.87	1.87	2.26	1.95	1.85	1.85	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-5.13
Other Foreign	106.77	108.18	108.61	108.03	4.05	4.14	4.15	4.17	276.14	286.37	288.11	287.89	-0.22	-0.08	1.51	0.53
China	30.75	31.41	31.80	31.80	6.02	6.21	6.22	6.22	129.65	136.57	138.50	138.50	0.00	0.00	1.93	1.41
India	42.30	42.70	42.20	42.20	2.82	2.85	2.91	2.91	79.62	81.20	82.00	82.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.99
Bangladesh	9.94	10.41	11.20	10.62	2.67	2.72	2.48	2.58	17.69	18.88	18.50	18.23	-0.27	-1.49	-0.66	-3.48
Japan	2.12	1.98	1.95	1.95	6.34	6.54	6.42	6.42	9.78	9.41	9.12	9.12	0.00	0.00	-0.29	-3.08
Brazil	3.88	3.57	3.55	3.55	2.59	2.73	2.69	2.69	6.83	6.63	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-1.93
Philippines	3.92	3.91	3.70	3.70	2.85	2.86	2.91	2.91	7.26	7.27	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	-0.26	-3.65
Egypt	0.56	0.59	0.63	0.63	7.86	8.29	7.94	7.94	2.60	2.99	2.96	2.96	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-1.14
Taiwan	0.36	0.35	0.37	0.37	5.71	5.04	4.87	4.87	1.52	1.42	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.41
FSU-12	0.51	0.48	0.45	0.45	2.36	2.24	2.64	2.64	0.78	0.70	0.76	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.06	8.68
Russia	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	2.70	2.36	2.07	2.07	0.30	0.25	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-15.02
Australia	0.15	0.17	0.14	0.14	6.38	8.36	8.57	8.57	0.68	0.99	0.87	0.87	0.00	0.00	-0.12	-12.30
Others	12.28	12.62	12.63	12.63	2.95	3.01	3.02	3.03	19.73	20.31	20.45	20.51	0.06	0.27	0.20	0.98

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

April 1998

TABLE 11
Total Oilseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World Total 1/ Total Foreign 1/ Copra Palm Kernel	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	-- -- -- --	259.71 190.61 5.03 4.98	261.45 186.62 5.83 5.31	283.59 199.04 5.67 5.38	282.79 198.24 5.67 5.38	-0.80 -0.80 0.01 0.00	-0.28 -0.40 0.14 0.00	21.34 11.62 -0.15 0.07	8.16 6.22 -2.63 1.38
Major Oilseeds 2/ United States 2/	164.65 33.57	161.33 32.58	168.27 35.66	168.30 35.67	1.52 2.06	1.55 2.30	1.62 2.37	1.61 2.37	249.70 69.10	250.32 74.83	272.55 84.56	271.74 84.55	-0.81 -0.00	-0.30 -0.01	21.42 9.73	8.56 13.00
Foreign Oilseeds 2/ South America Brazil Argentina Paraguay China India European Union France Italy Germany Spain United Kingdom FSU-12 Russia Ukraine Uzbekistan Turkmenistan Canada Indonesia Pakistan Eastern Europe Poland Romania Hungary Turkey Philippines Mexico Others	131.08 25.03 12.19 10.38 1.48 25.08 30.40 5.97 1.92 0.47 1.03 1.09 0.44 10.09 4.86 2.04 1.50 0.45 6.14 1.99 3.54 3.11 0.61 0.79 0.53 1.46 0.06 0.52 17.68	128.75 25.27 12.61 10.26 1.38 23.23 31.42 5.83 1.87 0.58 0.90 1.17 0.41 9.96 4.65 2.15 1.50 0.45 4.35 1.86 3.73 3.05 0.28 0.99 0.57 1.37 0.05 0.38 18.26	132.61 27.86 13.94 11.25 1.59 23.51 31.30 5.93 1.97 0.61 0.94 1.13 0.44 9.55 4.07 2.24 1.50 0.55 5.90 1.83 3.45 2.83 0.32 0.83 0.51 1.28 0.06 0.42 18.70	132.64 27.91 13.94 11.31 1.59 23.51 31.30 5.92 1.97 0.61 0.94 1.13 0.44 9.53 4.07 2.24 1.50 0.55 5.90 1.83 3.45 2.83 0.32 0.83 0.51 1.28 0.06 0.42 18.70	1.38 1.94 2.05 1.85 1.81 1.73 0.82 2.20 2.53 2.60 3.15 0.62 3.03 1.12 0.95 1.42 1.47 1.22 1.43 1.30 1.14 1.71 2.27 1.32 1.48 0.83 1.33 0.90	1.36 1.95 2.18 1.68 2.08 1.78 0.85 2.19 2.74 2.57 2.31 1.17 3.42 0.86 0.69 0.99 1.38 0.58 1.68 1.29 0.99 1.52 1.59 1.31 1.67 1.41 0.87 1.56 0.90	1.42 2.11 2.21 2.04 1.99 1.74 0.83 2.45 2.94 2.80 3.09 1.04 3.39 0.95 0.77 1.04 1.57 0.73 1.52 1.31 1.03 1.54 1.84 1.23 1.66 1.49 0.91 1.50 0.90	1.41 2.09 2.21 2.00 1.98 1.74 0.82 2.45 2.94 2.80 3.09 1.04 3.39 0.95 0.77 1.04 1.57 0.73 1.52 1.31 1.03 1.54 1.84 1.23 1.66 1.49 0.91 1.50 0.90	180.60 48.47 24.99 19.24 2.68 43.33 24.93 13.14 4.86 1.22 3.24 0.68 1.33 11.28 4.62 2.90 2.20 0.55 8.80 2.58 4.03 5.32 1.38 1.04 0.79 2.18 0.05 0.69 15.83	175.49 49.17 27.45 17.26 2.87 41.45 26.62 12.78 5.11 1.49 2.08 1.38 1.41 8.54 3.19 2.13 2.07 0.26 7.28 2.41 3.68 4.64 0.45 1.30 0.95 1.93 0.05 0.60 16.36	187.99 58.71 30.83 22.90 3.16 40.89 26.08 14.51 5.78 1.71 2.90 1.17 1.50 9.09 3.14 2.33 2.35 0.40 8.97 2.41 3.57 4.37 0.59 1.02 0.85 1.92 0.05 0.63 16.81	187.19 58.44 30.83 22.65 3.15 40.89 25.55 14.47 5.78 1.71 2.90 1.17 1.50 9.09 3.14 2.33 2.35 0.40 8.97 2.41 3.57 4.37 0.59 1.02 0.85 1.95 0.05 0.63 16.80	-0.80 -0.27 0.00 -0.25 -0.02 0.00 -0.53 -0.03 0.00 -0.01	-0.43 -0.46 0.00 -1.09 -0.54 0.00 -2.03 -0.23 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 -0.04	11.70 9.27 3.37 5.39 0.28 -0.56 -1.07 1.69 0.67 0.22 0.82 -0.21 0.09 0.56 -0.06 0.20 0.28 0.14 1.68 -0.00 -0.11 -0.27 0.14 -0.28 -0.10 0.03 0.01 0.03 0.44	6.66 18.85 12.28 31.23 9.80 -1.34 -4.03 13.22 13.11 14.68 39.32 -15.18 6.38 6.55 -1.79 9.38 13.53 53.85 23.09 -0.04 -2.99 -5.78 31.40 -21.22 -10.34 1.30 13.04 4.69 2.70

1/ Major oilseeds plus copra and palm kernel. 2/ Individual countries and regions include soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, and rapeseed.

TABLE 12
Soybean Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	61.69	63.19	69.39	69.39	2.03	2.08	2.19	2.19	124.96	131.58	152.26	152.21	-0.05	-0.03	20.63	15.68
United States	24.94	25.66	28.28	28.28	2.38	2.53	2.62	2.62	59.24	64.84	74.22	74.22	0.00	0.00	9.39	14.48
Total Foreign	36.75	37.53	41.11	41.11	1.79	1.78	1.90	1.90	65.71	66.74	78.04	77.98	-0.05	-0.07	11.24	16.84
Major Exporters																
Brazil	18.03	19.20	21.00	21.00	2.16	2.12	2.33	2.33	38.98	40.70	48.90	48.90	0.00	0.00	8.20	20.15
Argentina	10.95	11.80	12.90	12.90	2.21	2.27	2.33	2.33	24.15	26.80	30.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	11.94
Paraguay	5.98	6.20	6.80	6.80	2.08	1.81	2.35	2.35	12.43	11.20	16.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	4.80	42.86
	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	2.18	2.25	2.23	2.23	2.40	2.70	2.90	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.20	7.41
Other Foreign	18.72	18.33	20.11	20.11	1.43	1.42	1.45	1.45	26.73	26.04	29.14	29.08	-0.05	-0.18	3.04	11.68
China	8.13	7.47	8.25	8.25	1.66	1.77	1.67	1.67	13.50	13.22	13.80	13.80	0.00	0.00	0.58	4.39
India	4.82	5.00	5.60	5.60	0.93	0.82	0.96	0.96	4.48	4.10	5.35	5.35	0.00	0.00	1.25	30.49
Canada	0.82	0.86	1.05	1.05	2.78	2.52	2.57	2.57	2.29	2.17	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.00	0.54	24.71
Indonesia	1.28	1.18	1.15	1.15	1.19	1.19	1.22	1.22	1.52	1.40	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Eastern Europe	0.17	0.20	0.16	0.16	1.73	1.69	2.18	2.18	0.29	0.34	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.78
European Union	0.29	0.34	0.43	0.42	3.23	3.44	3.37	3.38	0.94	1.15	1.44	1.43	-0.01	-0.83	0.28	24.02
FSU-12	0.55	0.55	0.45	0.45	0.66	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.36	0.34	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-18.18
Russia	0.49	0.49	0.39	0.39	0.60	0.58	0.56	0.56	0.29	0.28	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-21.99
Ukraine	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	1.30	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mexico	0.13	0.06	0.14	0.14	1.43	1.00	1.25	1.25	0.19	0.06	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.12	191.67
Thailand	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1.30	1.26	1.29	1.29	0.37	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Korea	0.32	0.33	0.33	0.33	1.25	1.23	1.08	1.08	0.40	0.40	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-12.50
Japan	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.72	1.71	1.71	1.71	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bolivia	0.45	0.55	0.63	0.63	2.02	1.83	2.00	2.00	0.90	1.00	1.26	1.26	0.00	0.00	0.26	26.00
South Korea	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.52	1.63	1.68	1.56	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	-0.00	-0.50	-0.00	-2.50
Colombia	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	2.06	2.00	1.67	1.67	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-28.57
Others	1.28	1.31	1.45	1.44	0.90	0.88	0.92	0.90	1.15	1.15	1.33	1.30	-0.04	-2.70	0.15	12.78

TABLE 13
Cottonseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Mar.	1997/98 Proj. Apr.	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Mar.	1997/98 Proj. Apr.	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Mar.	1997/98 Proj. Apr.	From last month	From last year		
		Million hectares			Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	35.88	33.78	33.63	33.60	1.00	1.02	1.04	1.03	35.93	34.44	35.07	34.47	-0.60	-1.72	0.03	0.08
United States	6.48	5.21	5.38	5.38	0.96	1.24	1.23	1.23	6.21	6.48	6.60	6.60	0.00	0.00	0.12	1.88
Total Foreign	29.41	28.57	28.25	28.23	1.01	0.98	1.01	0.99	29.72	27.96	28.47	27.87	-0.60	-2.11	-0.09	-0.33
China	5.42	4.72	4.50	4.50	1.58	1.60	1.72	1.72	8.58	7.56	7.72	7.72	0.00	0.00	0.16	2.12
FSU-12	2.57	2.52	2.60	2.58	1.28	1.10	1.21	1.22	3.30	2.77	3.15	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.38	13.80
Uzbekistan	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.47	1.38	1.57	1.57	2.20	2.07	2.35	2.35	0.00	0.00	0.28	13.53
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.45	0.55	0.55	1.22	0.58	0.73	0.73	0.55	0.26	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.14	53.85
India	9.06	9.17	9.00	9.00	0.62	0.64	0.59	0.53	5.65	5.88	5.33	4.80	-0.53	-9.94	-1.08	-18.37
Pakistan	3.05	3.20	2.90	2.90	1.17	0.99	1.05	1.05	3.57	3.18	3.05	3.05	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-4.06
Brazil	1.13	0.70	0.92	0.92	0.58	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.66	0.49	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.16	32.65
Turkey	0.76	0.74	0.70	0.70	1.68	1.58	1.50	1.55	1.28	1.18	1.05	1.09	0.04	3.33	-0.09	-7.66
African Franc Zone	1.61	1.91	2.00	2.00	0.74	0.72	0.76	0.76	1.19	1.37	1.52	1.52	0.00	0.00	0.15	11.21
Australia	0.30	0.40	0.43	0.43	1.98	2.18	2.09	2.09	0.60	0.86	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.04	4.65
Egypt	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.36	1.27	1.45	1.42	1.53	0.39	0.56	0.51	0.55	0.04	7.84	-0.01	-2.31
Argentina	0.96	0.88	1.00	1.00	0.78	0.64	0.80	0.70	0.74	0.56	0.80	0.70	-0.10	-12.50	0.14	25.00
Paraguay	0.31	0.11	0.22	0.22	0.60	0.71	0.78	0.70	0.19	0.08	0.17	0.16	-0.02	-9.88	0.08	106.67
Greece	0.44	0.42	0.39	0.39	1.52	1.13	1.49	1.49	0.67	0.48	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.11	22.11
Syria	0.20	0.22	0.25	0.25	2.28	2.39	2.82	2.82	0.45	0.53	0.71	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.18	34.29
Mexico	0.32	0.25	0.20	0.20	1.31	1.86	1.85	1.85	0.42	0.46	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	-0.09	-19.21
Colombia	0.11	0.09	0.06	0.06	1.25	1.24	1.13	1.13	0.14	0.11	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-37.61
Sudan	0.22	0.28	0.27	0.27	1.13	0.82	0.79	0.79	0.25	0.23	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-8.70
Others	2.64	2.60	2.45	2.44	0.63	0.65	0.69	0.68	1.67	1.69	1.69	1.66	-0.03	-1.78	-0.03	-1.90

TABLE 14
Peanut Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	21.82	22.11	22.28	22.34	1.30	1.31	1.24	1.24	28.40	28.94	27.59	27.74	0.15	0.53	-1.21	-4.17
United States	0.61	0.56	0.57	0.57	2.56	2.98	2.83	2.81	1.57	1.66	1.61	1.60	-0.00	-0.31	-0.06	-3.43
Total Foreign	21.21	21.56	21.71	21.77	1.27	1.27	1.20	1.20	26.83	27.28	25.98	26.13	0.15	0.58	-1.15	-4.22
China	3.81	3.62	3.74	3.74	2.68	2.80	2.36	2.36	10.20	10.14	8.80	8.80	0.00	0.00	-1.34	-13.21
India	7.80	8.20	8.10	8.10	0.95	1.00	0.99	0.99	7.40	8.20	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-2.44
Indonesia	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.66	1.53	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.06	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Senegal	0.88	0.92	0.79	0.79	0.94	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.83	0.65	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-14.86
Burma	0.50	0.52	0.53	0.53	1.01	1.10	1.11	1.11	0.50	0.57	0.59	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.02	3.87
Sudan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zaire	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.80	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.58	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Argentina	0.24	0.28	0.35	0.41	1.93	1.09	1.71	1.83	0.46	0.30	0.60	0.75	0.15	25.00	0.45	150.00
Nigeria	1.77	1.83	2.00	2.00	0.89	0.94	0.88	0.88	1.58	1.72	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.57
Vietnam	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1.28	1.31	1.31	1.31	0.33	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.14	0.10	0.06	0.06	1.43	1.47	1.45	1.45	0.19	0.14	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-42.86
Thailand	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.52	1.49	1.50	1.50	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-1.32
Burkina Faso	0.26	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.82	0.80	0.83	0.83	0.21	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brazil	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	1.93	1.55	1.67	1.67	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.01	8.70
Central African Rep.	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.95	0.94	1.00	1.00	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.01	9.89
Cameroon	0.35	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.29	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.10	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58
Cote d'Ivoire	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	1.05	1.07	1.04	1.04	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-3.33
Mexico	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.26	1.06	1.07	1.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.35
Gambia	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.96	0.72	0.85	0.85	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.02	39.13
Others	2.69	2.68	2.72	2.72	0.86	0.85	0.84	0.84	2.32	2.27	2.29	2.29	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.57

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 15
Sunflowerseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.				Prel.				Prel.				From last month			
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	1997/98 Proj. Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	1997/98 Proj. Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	1997/98 Proj. Apr.	MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons							
World	20.84	20.10	19.74	19.75	1.24	1.19	1.21	1.20	25.89	23.93	23.93	23.66	-0.27	-1.13	-0.27	-1.14
United States	1.36	1.01	1.15	1.15	1.33	1.61	1.48	1.48	1.82	1.63	1.71	1.71	0.00	0.00	0.08	4.92
Total Foreign	19.47	19.09	18.59	18.60	1.24	1.17	1.20	1.18	24.07	22.30	22.22	21.95	-0.27	-1.22	-0.35	-1.58
FSU-12	6.56	6.59	6.17	6.17	1.13	0.79	0.88	0.88	7.38	5.21	5.43	5.43	0.00	0.00	0.22	4.22
Russia	4.10	4.00	3.50	3.50	1.02	0.70	0.80	0.80	4.20	2.80	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ukraine	2.00	2.11	2.20	2.20	1.43	0.99	1.05	1.05	2.85	2.10	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.20	9.52
Argentina	3.20	2.90	3.10	3.10	1.75	1.79	1.77	1.68	5.60	5.20	5.50	5.20	-0.30	-5.45	0.00	0.00
European Union	2.39	2.35	2.28	2.29	1.34	1.66	1.63	1.63	3.21	3.90	3.72	3.73	0.01	0.24	-0.16	-4.18
France	0.98	0.92	0.90	0.90	1.95	2.19	2.35	2.35	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.10	5.00
Spain	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.96	0.59	1.15	0.94	0.94	0.58	1.14	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	-0.24	-21.05
Italy	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.26	2.00	2.01	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.57
Eastern Europe	1.95	2.13	1.91	1.91	1.42	1.42	1.35	1.35	2.76	3.03	2.57	2.57	0.00	0.00	-0.46	-15.25
Hungary	0.49	0.48	0.42	0.42	1.49	1.68	1.67	1.67	0.73	0.80	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-12.50
Romania	0.72	0.91	0.77	0.77	1.30	1.30	1.17	1.17	0.93	1.18	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	-0.28	-23.73
Yugoslavia	0.19	0.23	0.20	0.20	1.76	1.87	1.65	1.65	0.33	0.43	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-23.26
Bulgaria	0.49	0.45	0.45	0.45	1.33	1.09	1.11	1.11	0.65	0.49	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.04
Czech Rep.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.79	1.95	2.24	2.24	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	20.51
China	0.81	0.69	0.67	0.67	1.56	1.92	1.79	1.79	1.27	1.33	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-9.43
India	2.17	2.20	2.20	2.20	0.65	0.68	0.68	0.68	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Turkey	0.63	0.55	0.50	0.50	1.20	1.09	1.40	1.44	0.75	0.60	0.70	0.72	0.02	2.86	0.12	20.00
South Africa	0.61	0.46	0.50	0.50	1.24	0.97	1.00	1.00	0.76	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.05	11.11
Australia	0.07	0.14	0.11	0.11	1.19	1.21	1.05	1.05	0.09	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-29.52
Burma	0.18	0.22	0.24	0.24	0.65	0.73	0.75	0.75	0.12	0.16	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.02	11.80
Others	0.91	0.86	0.91	0.91	0.82	0.89	0.88	0.88	0.74	0.76	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.04	4.99

TABLE 16
Rapeseed Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	Prel.				Prel.				Prel.				From last month			
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	From last month	From last year		
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	24.42	22.16	23.23	23.22	1.41	1.42	1.45	1.45	34.52	31.43	33.70	33.67	-0.03	-0.09	2.25	7.15
United States	0.18	0.14	0.28	0.28	1.43	1.55	1.47	1.47	0.25	0.22	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.20	89.95
Total Foreign	24.25	22.02	22.94	22.93	1.41	1.42	1.45	1.45	34.27	31.21	33.29	33.26	-0.03	-0.09	2.05	6.57
India	6.55	6.86	6.40	6.40	0.92	1.01	0.92	0.92	6.00	6.94	5.90	5.90	0.00	0.00	-1.04	-15.01
China	6.91	6.73	6.35	6.35	1.42	1.37	1.48	1.48	9.78	9.20	9.37	9.37	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.85
Canada	5.27	3.45	4.80	4.80	1.22	1.47	1.29	1.29	6.44	5.06	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	1.14	22.48
European Union	2.82	2.65	2.72	2.71	2.93	2.70	3.16	3.16	8.27	7.14	8.58	8.55	-0.03	-0.35	1.41	19.68
France	0.85	0.87	0.97	0.97	3.20	3.32	3.51	3.51	2.70	2.87	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.53	18.47
Germany	0.97	0.85	0.90	0.90	3.21	2.31	3.11	3.11	3.13	1.97	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.83	42.13
United Kingdom	0.44	0.41	0.44	0.44	3.03	3.42	3.39	3.39	1.33	1.41	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.09	6.38
Denmark	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.11	2.05	2.38	2.76	2.76	0.31	0.25	0.29	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.04	16.00
Sweden	0.11	0.07	0.07	0.06	2.05	2.11	2.00	1.95	0.22	0.14	0.13	0.12	-0.01	-5.38	-0.02	-11.51
Eastern Europe	0.97	0.69	0.74	0.74	2.32	1.82	1.94	1.94	2.26	1.26	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.18	14.39
Poland	0.61	0.28	0.32	0.32	2.27	1.59	1.84	1.84	1.38	0.45	0.59	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.14	31.40
Czech Rep.	0.25	0.23	0.24	0.24	2.63	2.30	2.29	2.29	0.66	0.52	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.03	5.57
Australia	0.41	0.42	0.69	0.69	1.38	1.52	1.18	1.18	0.56	0.64	0.81	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.17	26.56
FSU-12	0.42	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.56	0.70	0.72	0.72	0.23	0.21	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.02	8.88
Russia	0.28	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.45	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.01	4.55
Pakistan	0.32	0.34	0.35	0.35	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.26	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.94
Bangladesh	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.71	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.96	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

April 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 17
Copra, Palm Kernel, and Palm Oil Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Production				Change in Production			
	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Mar.	Apr.	From last month		From last year	
	Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
COPRA								
World	5.03	5.83	5.67	5.67	0.01	0.14	-0.15	-2.63
Philippines	1.97	2.25	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.05	2.22
Indonesia	1.46	1.93	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	-0.23	-11.92
India	0.61	0.64	0.68	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.04	6.25
Mexico	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sri Lanka	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vietnam	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaysia	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.01	37.50	-0.00	-5.88
Others	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	-0.00	-0.75	-0.01	-2.01
PALM KERNEL								
World	4.98	5.31	5.38	5.38	0.00	0.00	0.07	1.38
Malaysia	2.48	2.63	2.57	2.57	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-2.24
Indonesia	1.41	1.59	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.11	6.92
Nigeria	0.27	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-3.85
Cote d'Ivoire	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.78
Colombia	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.33
Thailand	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.13
Zaire	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.53	0.53	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.64
PALM OIL								
World	16.17	17.47	17.59	17.59	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.68
Malaysia	8.26	9.01	8.80	8.80	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-2.28
Indonesia	4.85	5.30	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.20	3.77
Nigeria	0.59	0.60	0.59	0.59	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.67
Cote d'Ivoire	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.02	5.26
Colombia	0.39	0.41	0.44	0.44	0.00	0.00	0.03	7.32
Thailand	0.37	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.05	12.50
Zaire	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	0.22	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	1.08	1.11	1.15	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.04	3.43

April 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 18
Cotton Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change In Production			
	Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		Prel.		1997/98 Proj.		From last month		From last year	
	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	1995/96	1996/97	Mar.	Apr.	MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
	Million hectares				Kilograms per hectare				Million 480 lb. bales				MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
World	35.93	33.83	33.73	33.70	564	574	581	576	93.03	89.18	90.08	89.19	-0.89	-0.99	0.01	0.02
United States	6.48	5.21	5.38	5.38	602	792	769	763	17.90	18.94	18.98	18.83	-0.15	-0.77	-0.11	-0.59
Total Foreign	29.46	28.62	28.36	28.33	555	534	546	541	75.13	70.24	71.11	70.36	-0.74	-1.04	0.13	0.18
Major Exporters																
China	16.64	15.83	15.95	15.93	696	662	693	692	53.19	48.15	50.81	50.66	-0.15	-0.30	2.51	5.22
Pakistan	5.42	4.72	4.50	4.50	879	890	953	953	21.90	19.30	19.70	19.70	0.00	0.00	0.40	2.07
Sudan	3.05	3.20	2.90	2.90	586	497	526	526	8.20	7.30	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	-0.30	-4.11
Turkey	0.22	0.28	0.27	0.27	485	358	329	329	0.49	0.46	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-13.04
FSU-12	0.76	0.74	0.70	0.70	1,125	1,054	1,026	1,026	3.91	3.60	3.30	3.30	0.00	0.00	-0.30	-8.33
Uzbekistan	2.57	2.52	2.60	2.58	699	560	611	616	8.26	6.47	7.31	7.31	0.00	0.00	0.84	12.98
Turkmenistan	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	833	689	784	784	5.74	4.75	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.65	13.68
Other	0.45	0.45	0.55	0.55	556	290	356	356	1.15	0.60	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.30	50.00
Egypt	0.62	0.57	0.55	0.53	479	432	397	412	1.37	1.12	1.01	1.01	0.00	0.00	-0.11	-9.82
African Franc Zone	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.36	774	882	877	937	1.09	1.57	1.45	1.55	0.10	6.90	-0.02	-1.15
Southern Hemisphere	1.61	1.91	2.06	2.06	424	418	440	440	3.14	3.66	4.15	4.15	0.00	0.00	0.49	13.36
Argentina	2.70	2.08	2.57	2.57	499	607	635	614	6.20	5.79	7.50	7.25	-0.25	-3.33	1.46	25.26
Australia	0.96	0.88	1.00	1.00	437	369	457	414	1.93	1.49	2.10	1.90	-0.20	-9.52	0.41	27.26
Brazil	0.30	0.40	0.43	0.43	1,425	1,537	1,519	1,519	1.97	2.79	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	7.60
Paraguay	1.13	0.70	0.92	0.92	345	407	450	450	1.79	1.30	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.60	46.15
	0.31	0.11	0.22	0.22	355	429	495	445	0.51	0.21	0.50	0.45	-0.05	-10.00	0.24	117.39
Major Importers																
	0.54	0.55	0.55	0.55	939	745	885	885	2.32	1.88	2.25	2.25	0.00	0.00	0.37	19.67
Other Foreign	12.28	12.24	11.85	11.84	348	360	332	321	19.62	20.21	18.05	17.45	-0.59	-3.29	-2.76	-13.64
India	9.06	9.17	9.00	9.00	318	327	283	271	13.25	13.78	11.70	11.20	-0.50	-4.27	-2.58	-18.73
Others	3.22	3.07	2.85	2.84	432	456	485	479	6.37	6.43	6.35	6.25	-0.09	-1.47	-0.18	-2.74

TABLE 19

The table below presents a 16-year record of the differences between the April projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the April projection and the final estimate have averaged 2.5 million tons (0.5 percent) and ranged from -6.8 to 6.5 million tons. The April projection has been below the final 9 times and above the final 7 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 1996/97 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below Final	Above Final
	Average	Average	Difference			
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
WHEAT						
World	0.5	2.5	-6.8	6.5	9	7
U.S.	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	8	3
Foreign	0.6	2.5	-6.8	6.5	9	7
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	0.6	4.9	-14.7	4.3	12	4
U.S.	0.1	0.1	-0.2	1.3	9	3
Foreign	0.9	4.9	-14.7	4.3	12	4
RICE (Milled)						
World	1.2	3.9	-9.0	10.8	13	3
U.S.	1.0	0.0	-0.2	0.1	4	2
Foreign	1.2	3.9	-9.0	10.8	13	3
SOYBEANS						
World	1.5	1.6	-3.2	2.3	9	7
U.S.	1.1	0.6	-1.6	1.8	7	6
Foreign	2.1	1.0	-2.2	2.3	12	4
			---Million 480-lb. bales---			
COTTON						
World	1.0	0.8	-3.0	0.8	12	3
U.S.	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	5	6
Foreign	1.2	0.8	-3.0	0.8	11	4
UNITED STATES			-----Million bushels-----			
CORN	0.1	3	-8	38	1	1
SORGHUM	0.1	0	0	4	0	2
BARLEY	0.4	2	-3	11	8	2
OATS	0.1	0	-2	1	3	1

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-1996/97 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 16 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.

April 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

April 9, 1998



1 - UNITED STATES

Warm, drier weather across the South allowed crop planting to progress, although soggy weather caused some delays in the Southeast. Periodic rain slowed fieldwork in preparation for planting in the Corn Belt. Generally favorable soil moisture and temperatures helped winter wheat. Cool, wet weather hampered fieldwork in California.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

In central Argentina, below normal March rainfall favored corn and sunflowerseed maturation and harvesting. Adequate moisture existed for second-crop soybeans. In northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, excessive February and March rainfall reduced cotton quality and caused some harvest losses. In Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, excessive March and early April rainfall slowed soybean harvesting and reduced soybean quality. Elsewhere across southern Brazil, soybean harvesting progressed on schedule.

3 - EUROPE

Seasonable temperatures in March favored winter grain development in the northwest, while unseasonably cold weather halted further winter grain growth in the east. Periodic freezes as far south as central Italy and Greece caused some damage to newly emerged summer crops and early flowering fruit trees. Since early April, mild weather and showers favored winter grains in England, France, and Spain.

4 - FSU-WESTERN

In March, colder weather was accompanied by snow in western and southern areas, keeping winter grains dormant and hampering fieldwork for spring grain planting. Since early April, a warming trend accompanied light rain in Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia, prompting greening of winter grains and improving conditions for fieldwork.

7 - SOUTH ASIA

A cooling trend continued across northern winter grain and oilseed areas, slowing growth. Unseasonable heat in southern India enhanced evaporative losses. Showers since late February have kept northern winter crops moist but reportedly caused some flooding in Pakistan.

8 - EASTERN ASIA

Above normal March rainfall favored vegetative winter wheat. Freezing temperatures, however, during late March burned back winter wheat. Across central and southern China, above normal March rainfall also provided adequate to abundant moisture for early-double crop rice.

9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Across southern Sumatra and Java, near to above normal March rainfall favored main-season rice and reduced long-term moisture deficits. Drought continued across the eastern Philippines and eastern Malaysia (Sabah). Below normal March rainfall reduced moisture for oil palm across the Malay Peninsula. Above normal March temperatures increased irrigation demands in Thailand, but cooler weather prevailed in early April.

10 - AUSTRALIA

A drying trend in the east has improved conditions for cotton and sorghum maturation but reduced moisture reserves in much of the sugarcane region. Tropical showers over the western and southeastern winter grain belts did not significantly improve long-term moisture reserves.

USDA/OCE - World Agricultural Outlook Board Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA

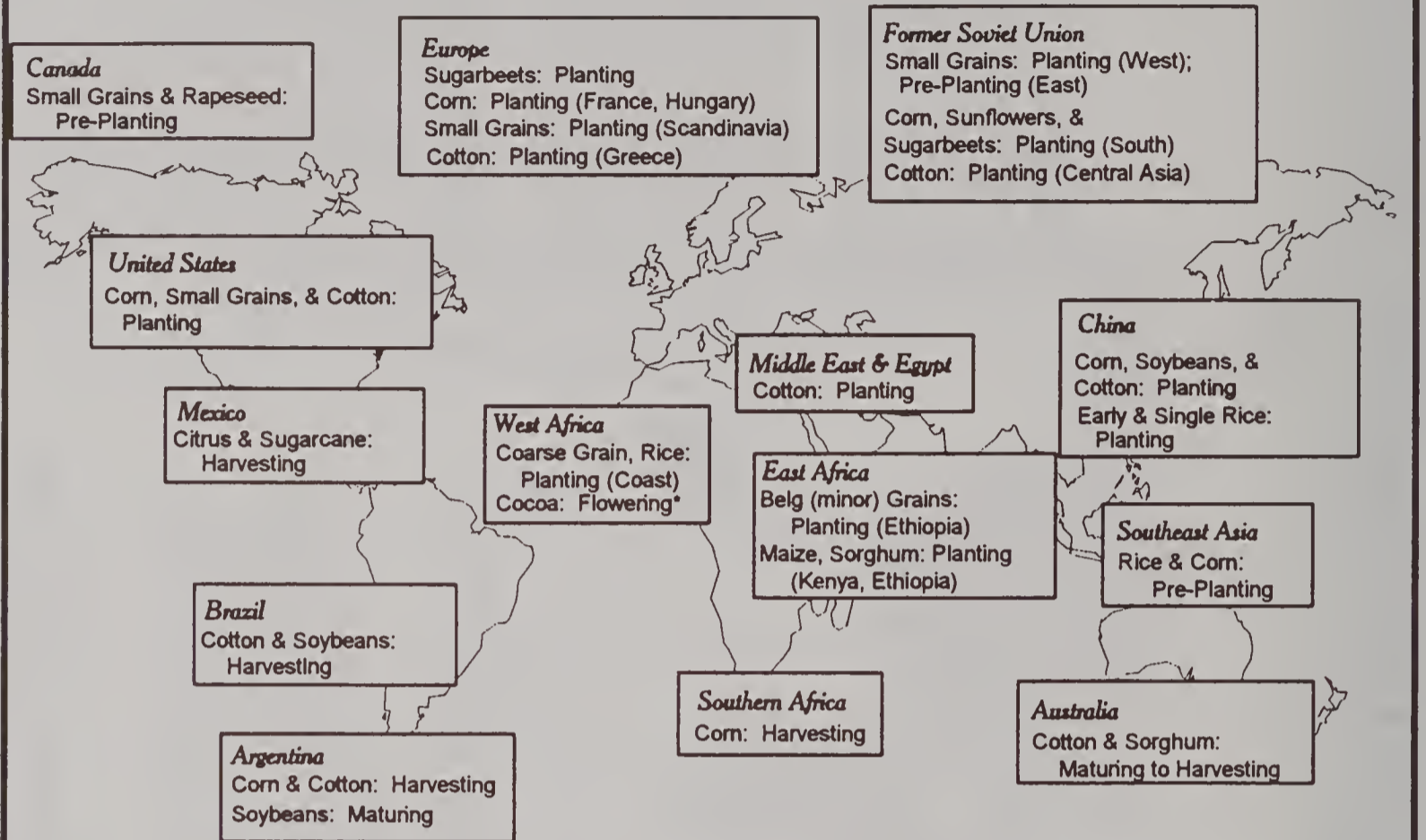
In March, continued below-normal rainfall in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia worsened conditions for winter grains which entered the heading stage. Continued drought in Algeria reduced winter grain prospects. Recently, light showers fell across the entire region, stabilizing conditions for winter grains.

6 - SOUTH AFRICA

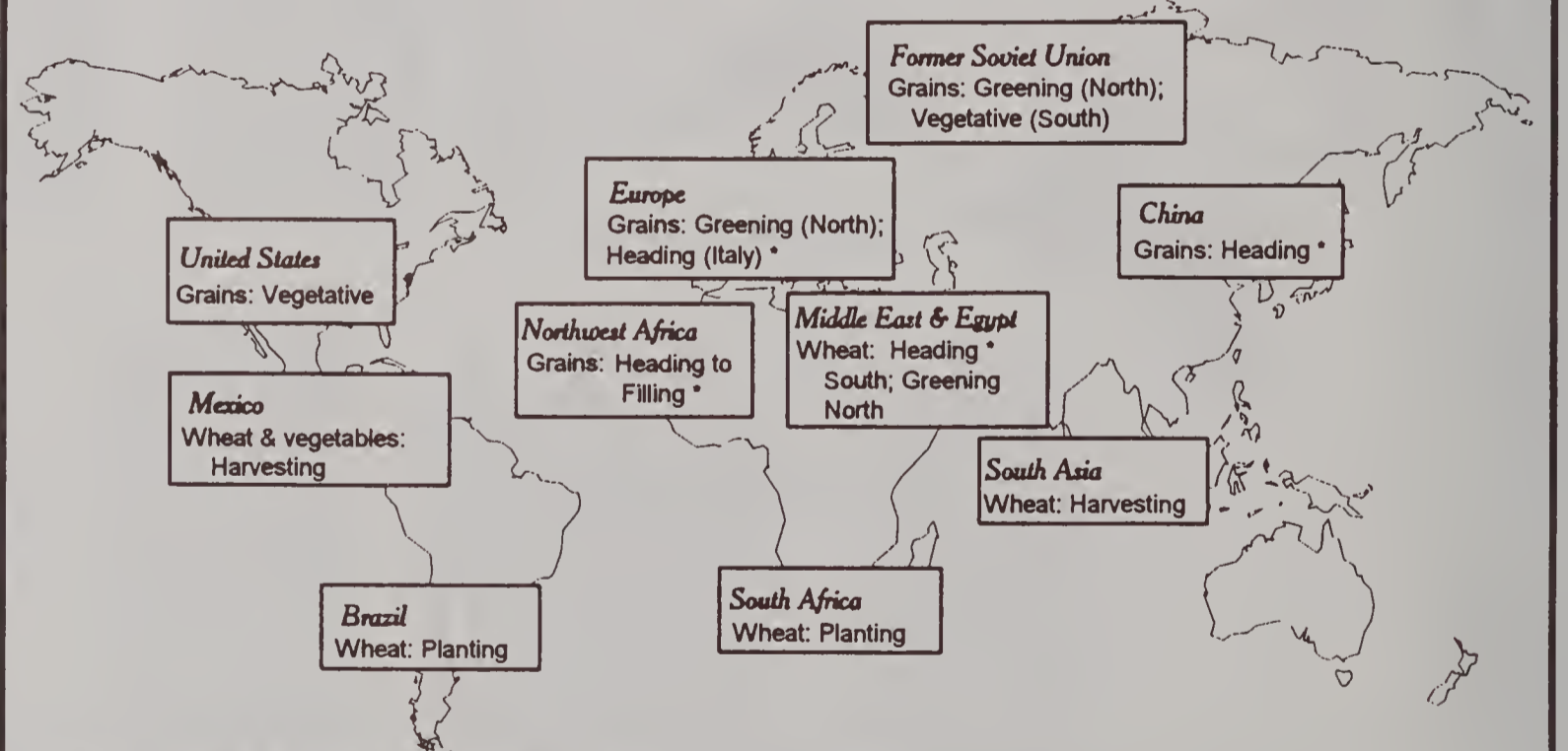
Unseasonable warmth continued to benefit late-planted, immature corn by increasing growth rates and reducing the threat of freeze damage. Sections of Free State expect an autumn freeze by early May, and some very late planted, long season varieties could still be affected. March rainfall kept summer crops well watered and boosted moisture reserves for winter wheat establishment.

April normal crop calendar

Summer crops



Winter crops

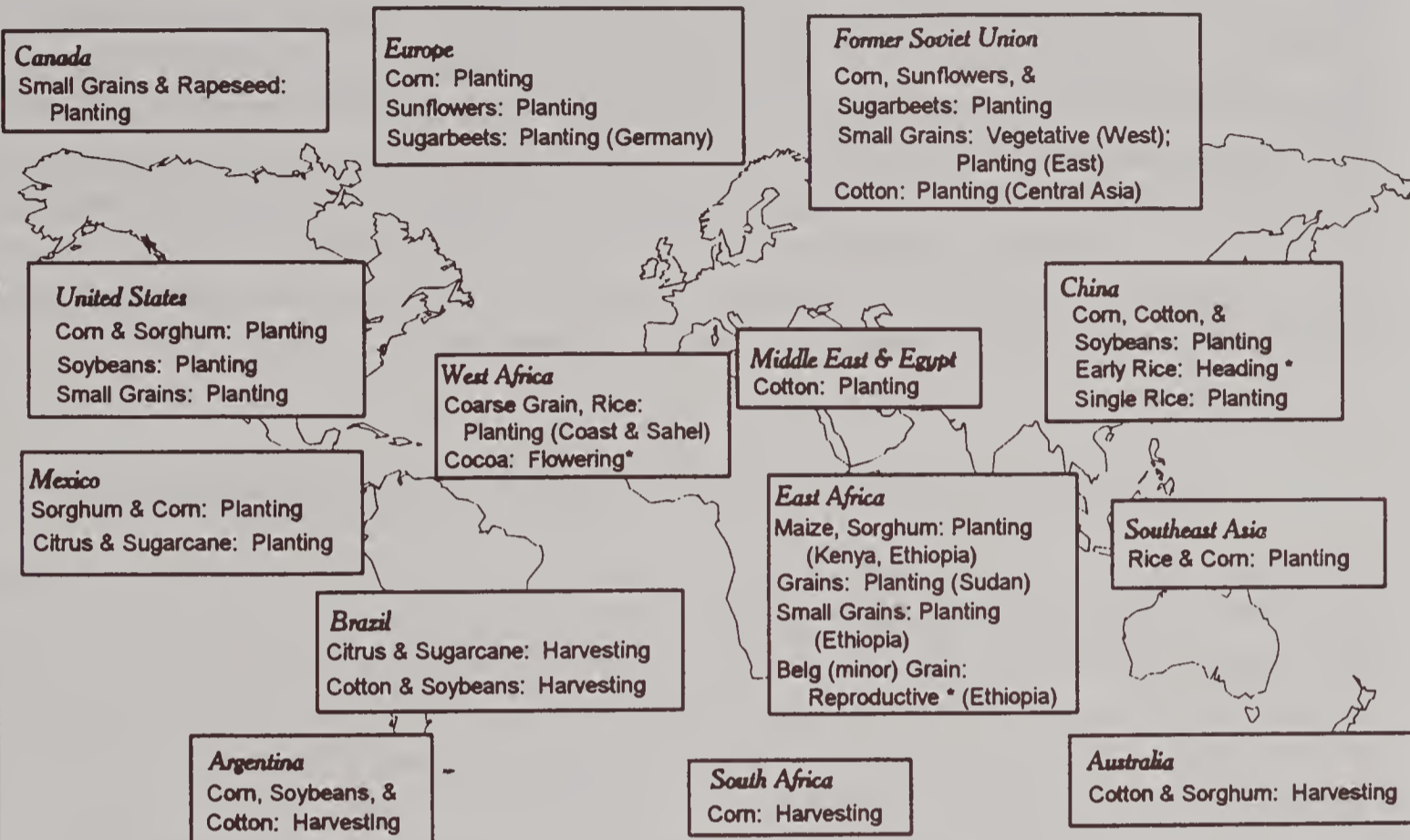


* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

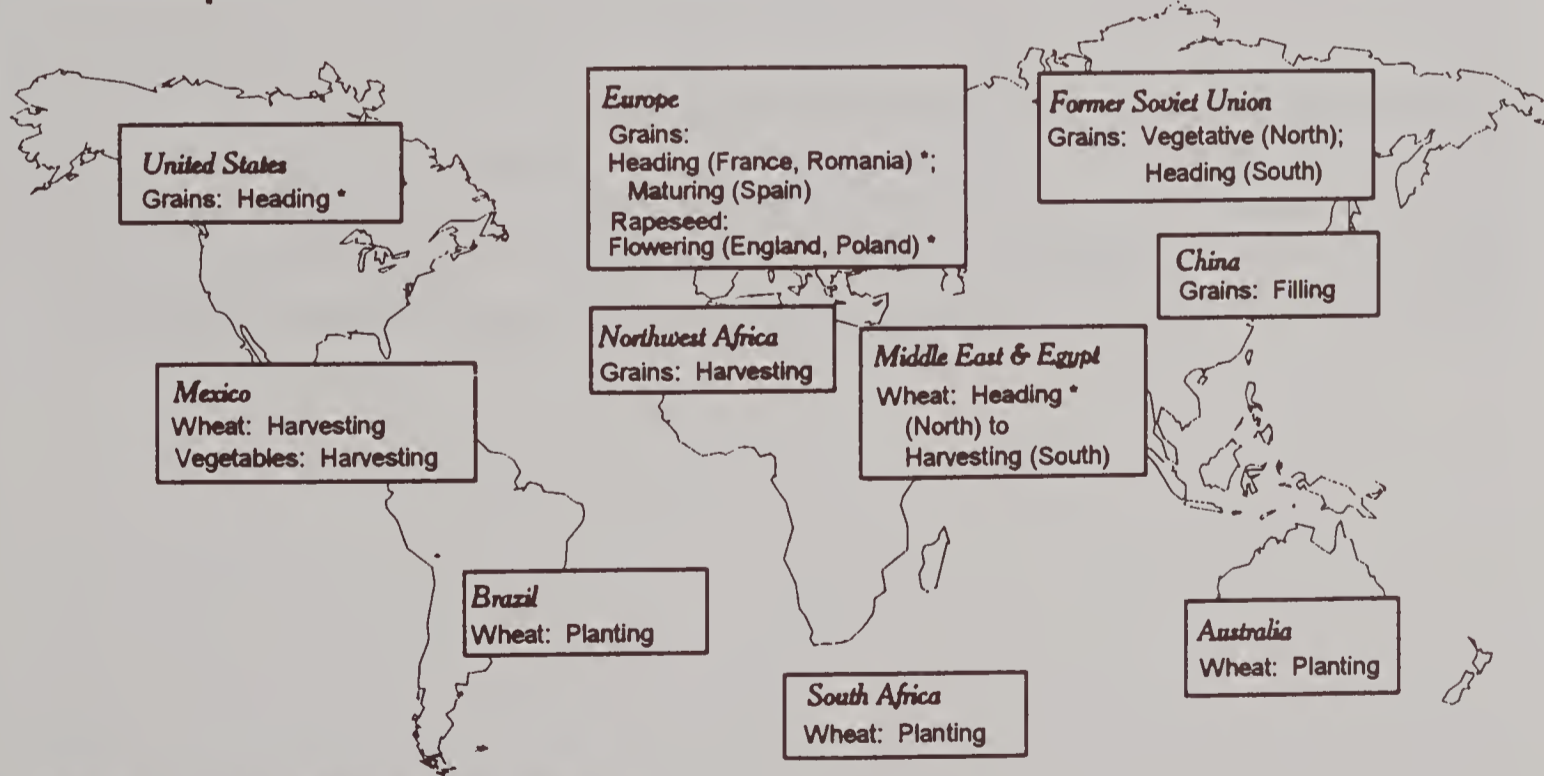
JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY (NOAA/USDA)

May normal crop calendar

Summer crops



Winter crops



* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY (NOAA/USDA)

WEATHER BRIEFS

SOUTH AMERICA: ISOLATED RAINS CAUSED COTTON QUALITY PROBLEMS

During February 1998, near-to above-normal rainfall provided ample moisture for filling summer crops across Argentina and southern Brazil. Temperatures for the month averaged above normal. During the first week of March, dry weather benefitted maturing cotton across northern Argentina and Paraguay. During March 8 - 14, heavy showers across northern Argentina and Paraguay, possibly damaged maturing cotton and slowed harvesting. Rainfall during March 15 - 21, was less frequent and lighter than the previous week in the cotton areas and therefore maintained good cotton quality and favored maturation. During March 22 - 28, rainfall in the cotton area varied from 10 to 50 millimeters. The heavier rainfall caused some delay of cotton harvest. From March 29 through April 4, isolated heavy showers slowed cotton harvest in extreme northern Argentina and southern Paraguay, but late week dry weather reduced the negative impact.

EUROPE: RAPESEED GROWING AREAS OVERWINTERED WELL

During early February 1998, a brief episode of bitterly cold weather prevailed over northeastern Europe. The cold spell was followed by mild weather which lasted from February 8 to month end. Mild weather continued across northern Europe during the first week of March. Temperatures averaged 4 to 8 degrees C above normal. Widespread rain benefitted canola and winter grains in extreme northern France, the Benelux countries, across Germany and into Poland. The streak of mild weather ended during the week of March 8 - 14, when unseasonably cool weather prevailed over Europe. Light rain accompanied the cooler weather and delayed spring field work. During March 15 - 21, western Europe experienced mild weather, while colder weather remained entrenched in northern and eastern Europe. From March 22 - 28, cooler weather returned to northern France, Germany, and northern Italy. That week cold weather continued in the canola and winter grain areas of eastern Europe. Not only did the cold delay crop development, but cool soil temperatures caused planting progress delays. During March 29 through April 4, warm temperatures returned to Europe. While heavy rain fell across western France, the more extensive French canola growing areas of eastern France were becoming dry. This dry pattern continued to dominate eastern Europe, although light showers were scattered across Poland and its neighbors. Temperatures averaged near to above normal across Europe, with warmth moving from west to east as the week progressed.

PHILIPPINES: DROUGHT CONTINUES

During February 1998, drought worsened in the Philippines. During the month, the eastern Philippines received less than 50 percent of normal rainfall. During the first two weeks of March, below-normal rainfall (less than 30 millimeters per week) provided little drought relief for the eastern Philippines. During March 15 - 25, rainfall was even lighter than recent weeks in eastern Philippines, with weekly amounts barely reaching 10 millimeters. Northern and southern Philippines were completely dry. Scattered showers (10 - 50 millimeters, with isolated amounts greater than 100 millimeters) provided some drought relief to the eastern Philippines during March 22 - 28. During March 29 through April 4, rainfall was more widespread across the eastern Philippines, again providing drought relief, however, amounts were lower than the prior week. Typically, April is the month when the Northeast Monsoon ends and the Southwest Monsoon starts, foreshadowing the beginning of main-season rice planting.

PRODUCTION BRIEFS

ARGENTINA: CORN OUTPUT SOARS ON INCREASED INPUTS AND IDEAL WEATHER

Corn production is forecast at a record 18.5 million tons, up 2.0 million or 12 percent from last month, and up 3.0 million or 19 percent from the previous record harvested last year. Harvested area is forecast at 3.4 million hectares, the same as last year. As of April 6, the corn was 21 percent harvested, very near the five-year average. Harvest progress is most advanced in the Entre Rios and Santa Fe Provinces. Quality is reported to be very good. Yield is forecast to eclipse last year's record. Factors which have contributed to the large increase include improved hybrids, increased fertilizer use, better overall farming practices, and near-ideal weather during the growing season. Reportedly, a significant portion of seeds planted this year were of a new hybrid, described as a semi-dent corn which, according to some sources, has a higher yield potential than hybrids previously grown. While some analysts believe that the crop could be larger than the current estimates, it should be noted that some of the remaining areas in southern Buenos Aires have been dryer and may yield lower than average.

ARGENTINA: RAINS REDUCE OILSEED YIELDS AS HARVEST NEARS

Argentina sunflowerseed production is estimated lower at 5.2 million tons, down 0.3 million or 5 percent from last month, and equaling the output of last year. Harvested area is forecast at 3.1 million hectares, up 7 percent from last year. The production forecast for the sunflowerseed crop has been reduced over the past three months, from a high of 6.0 million tons, due to excessive rainfall. Heavy rains and wind in Santa Fe, southern Cordoba, and northern Buenos Aires damaged the mature crop during the harvest. As of April 6, the crop was 71 percent harvested and reported yields have been disappointing. The crop is characterized by immature light flowers, poorly-filled seeds, and the presence of various diseases. Much of what remains to be harvested is in the main production area in southern Buenos Aires and La Pampa which was spared some of the heaviest rains that caused problems to the north. Yields in this region will determine the final overall size of the crop.

Cottonseed production for 1997/98 is estimated at 700,000 tons, down 100,000 or a reduction of 13 percent from last month, but up 25 percent from last year. The primary cotton-producing area in Chaco and Northern Santa Fe has been plagued with heavy late-season rains. This has resulted in vast flooding, and an excess of soil moisture and humidity in the lower canopy. According to reports, this has resulted in weak plants with few bolls, with bolls being small and often rotten, especially on the lower parts of plants. Some sources estimate that over 100,000 hectares in the hardest hit areas may be abandoned due to low yields. A combination of late plantings, slow development, and water-saturated fields has caused harvest to lag well behind normal. Assuming normal weather, harvest should be in full swing by mid-May.

Peanut production in Argentina is forecast at a record 750,000 tons, up 150,000 or 25 percent from last month, and up 450,000 or 150 percent from last year. The dramatic increase is largely due to an upward revision in area from 350,000 hectares to 410,000, but also reflects a higher yield. Peanuts appear not to have been damaged by rain as have sunflowers and cotton further to the north.

UNITED STATES: CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS

Cold weather slowed winter wheat development in the central Great Plains and Southeast early in March. Considerable leaf burn resulted from a mid-month blast of cold air that brought sub-zero temperatures as far south as Kansas. However, permanent damage from the strong winds and freezing temperatures was expected to be minor. Farther north, snow cover helped protect the crop from the windy, cold conditions. As the cold air retreated, growth resumed, accelerating late in March when record high temperatures pushed northward into the High Plains. By the end of the month, over half of the crop had reached the jointing stage in Oklahoma, and the crop was beginning to head in Texas and Louisiana.

Warm, dry weather during the last week of March allowed farmers in the Corn Belt and northern Plains to begin spring tillage operations. Some oats were seeded in Illinois, and Colorado producers made good progress on their small grain seedings. In the Southeast, rain caused flooding, delaying corn planting and keeping farmers out of their fields until late in the month. In Georgia, a few cotton and soybean fields remained unharvested from last year's crop. Corn planting accelerated during the final week of the month, but remained behind normal. A sugarcane plant in Florida expected to remain in operation until April to finish processing the late-harvested crop.

The Pacific Coast States began March with a continuation of below-normal temperatures, but the earlier stormy pattern abated in California and allowed fieldwork to resume in most areas. Most small grain and alfalfa fields recovered from earlier flooding, but some low-lying wheat and barley fields remained wet and growth was stunted. Some cotton was planted in the San Joaquin Valley, but soil temperatures were still too low in most areas.

FORMER SOVIET UNION: WEATHER AND CROP DEVELOPMENTS

In March, unseasonably mild weather early in the month in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltics, and Belarus was followed by a pattern of unusually cold weather that began around March 10 and persisted until month's end. The colder weather pattern was accompanied by snow, producing an unusually late snow cover as far south as the Black Sea Coast and keeping winter grains dormant in most areas. Above-normal precipitation occurred in most areas in March, with over twice the normal amount of moisture falling in the eastern half of Ukraine and a large portion of Russia. The cold, wet weather pattern halted early-spring grain planting in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia. Last year (1997), a similar cold spell occurred in March in Ukraine and Russia, interrupting spring grain planting.

Since April 1, a warming trend occurred over Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics, melting the unusually late snow cover. By April 8, most of Ukraine, southern Russia (North Caucasus, southern Black Soils Region, and lower Volga Valley), the Baltics, and Belarus were snow-free. The warming trend likely promoted greening of winter grains in the southern half of Ukraine and the western North Caucasus region. Elsewhere, winter grains remained dormant. Spring grain planting is likely off to a slow start in Ukraine and Russia due to persistent cold weather. However, substantial time remains for planting which typically occurs in April and May.

FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

AVERAGE DATES FOR EARLY SPRING GROWTH*



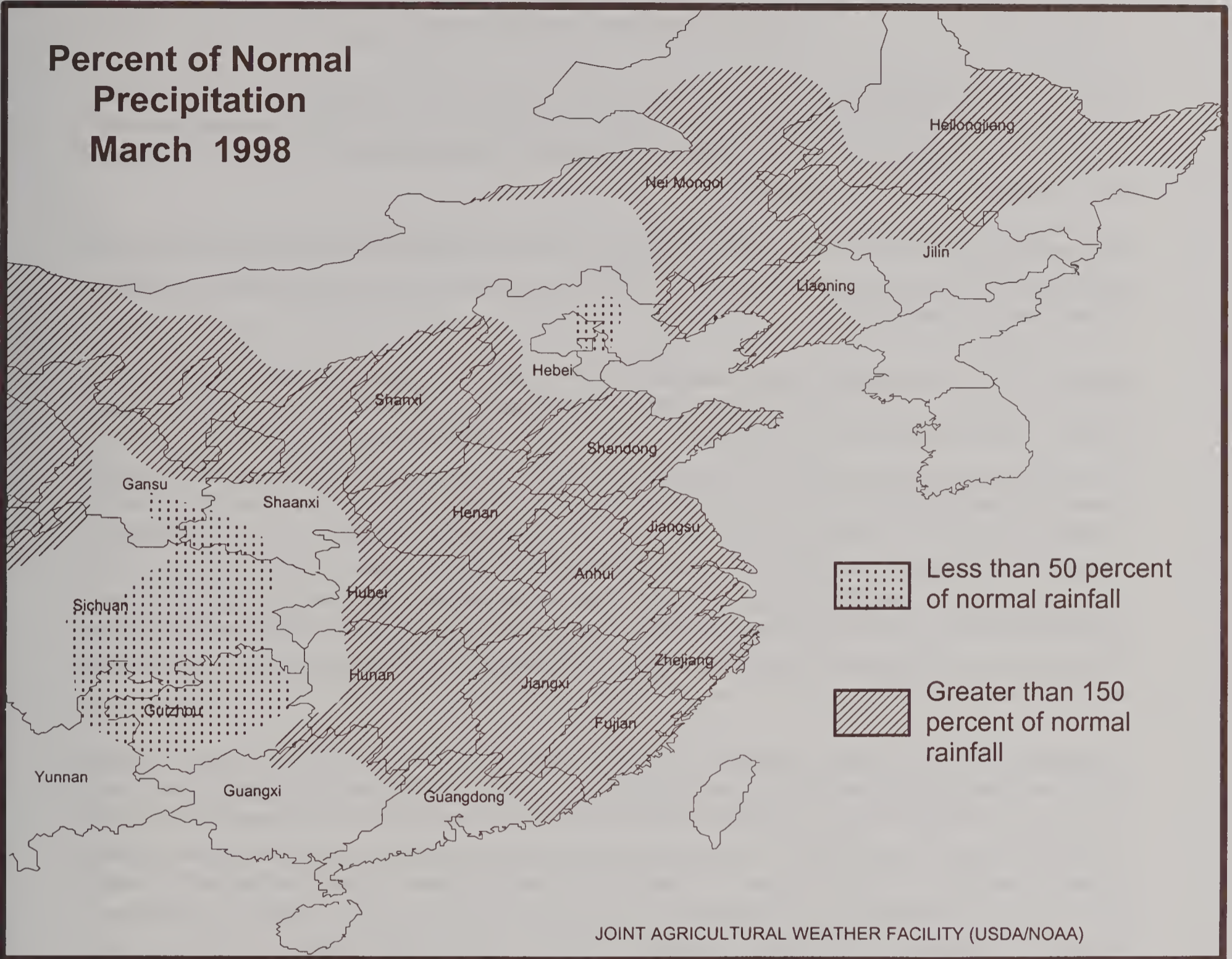
WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 9, 1998

- o Above-normal precipitation in March in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and the Baltics increased soil moisture reserves.
- o A period of unusually warm weather was followed by a cold snap that began on March 10 and persisted until month's end, interrupting early spring grain planting and slowing greening of winter grains.
- o In early April, a warming trend was accompanied by several days of dryness, allowing a resumption in spring grain planting and prompting greening of winter grains in Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia.

MAP 5
CHINA

**Percent of Normal
Precipitation
March 1998**



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 9, 1998

- In March, above-normal rainfall favored vegetative winter wheat across the North China Plain. Freezing temperatures, however, burned back wheat in the North China Plain and portions of the Yangtze Valley. During early April, seasonably warm weather allowed spring wheat planting to begin in Manchuria.
- Above-normal March rainfall increased winter grain and oilseed disease potentials across the Yangtze Valley. The rainfall provided adequate to abundant moisture for early double-crop rice across southern China.

FEATURE COMMODITY ARTICLES

WORLD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

World soybean production for 1997/98 is estimated at a record 152.2 million tons, up 20.6 million or 16 percent from 1996/97. Higher levels of global demand led to favorable prices and increased soybean area and production in many countries. (See table 12 of this circular for country and regional area, yield, and production estimates.)

The current crop in South America which is being harvested has benefitted greatly from plentiful and timely rainfall. Drought hurt crop prospects in China and Indonesia, but favorable weather occurred in the United States and India.

Brazil: The Brazilian soybean crop should set another production record this year. The harvest is currently underway, and output is estimated at 30.0 million tons in 1997/98, up 12 percent from 1996/97. Area harvested also is projected to be a record 12.9 million hectares, up 9 percent from last year. Basic factors which underlie the record soybean production include: high international and domestic prices for last year's crop, which influenced grower planting decisions in favor of soybeans; increased government financing for planting loans, especially for growers in the Center-West; increased use of inputs because of the better overall financial condition of farmers; the planting of new lands to soybeans along Brazil's agricultural frontier; improved transportation infrastructure, especially waterways; and, the elimination of the value-added tax on soybeans, which has resulted in increased returns to growers. Favorable weather, with plentiful and timely rainfall in most growing areas, is given much of the credit for record yields.

Argentina: Soybean output in Argentina for 1997/98 is projected at a record 16.0 million tons, up 43 percent from a drought reduced crop in 1996/97. A record harvested area of 6.8 million hectares and a record yield of 2.35 tons per hectare are forecast. This is an increase of 10 percent in area and 30 percent in yield over 1996/97. Favorable soybean prices at planting combined with favorable economic conditions in the farm sector were important in increasing area. Timely rainfall was perhaps the most important factor in the favorable outlook for yields, but the adoption of improved technology, such as increased use of genetically modified soybeans, and a reduction in the amount of second crop soybeans (double-cropped soybeans planted after wheat) were also factors. Though official estimates for this year's crop do not currently exist, it is believed by some that the percentage of soybeans which were double cropped was down from around 40 percent in 1996/97, to around 30 percent in 1997/98. Dry weather is now desirable to promote favorable conditions for the harvest.

Paraguay: Production for 1997/98 is forecast at a record 2.9 million tons, up 7 percent from 1996/97. Conditions have been generally good during the majority of the growing season. However, dry spells in two districts (Misiones and San Pedro) and disease problems have had some negative effect. The result is that total output in 1997/98 is projected somewhat below potential. Area is estimated to be 1.3 million hectares, up 8 percent from last year, while yield is forecast at 2.2 tons per hectare, down 1 percent from 1996/97.

China: In China, soybean output for 1997/98 is estimated at 13.8 million tons, up 4 percent from 1996/97. However, potential output was substantially reduced by drought in the North China Plain and parts of northeastern China. Yield is estimated at 1.67 tons per hectare, down 5 percent from 1996/97, while area is estimated up 10 percent, at 8.3 million hectares. There was a significant shift in planted area from corn to soybeans in northeastern China in 1997/98, but output was curtailed by drought which resulted in poor germination, blossom drop, and poor pod fill. Because corn production was hurt by the drought more severely than soybean production, there will be no incentive to shift additional corn area into soybeans in 1998/99.

India: Soybean production in India for 1997/98 is estimated at a record 5.4 million tons, up 30 percent from 1996/97. The high output is attributed mostly to a high-average yield which is estimated at 0.96 tons per hectare, up 16 percent from 1996/97. Production increases occurred in Madhya Pradesh, the largest soybean growing state, and also in Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Ideal weather, most notably well distributed rainfall, was cited as the major contributing factor for the near record yields. Area increased 12 percent in 1997/98, to 5.60 million hectares. Prospects for the upcoming 1998/99 crop depend on the monsoon rains which normally begin in June.

Indonesia: Soybean output in Indonesia for 1997/98 is forecast at 1.4 million tons, unchanged from 1996/97, but down from 1.5 million tons in 1995/96. Less than normal rainfall during the dry season associated with El Nino and a delayed onset to the rainy season, from September to November 1997, reduced area during the dry season in 1996/97 and reduced area during the rainy season in 1997/98. Farmers are expected to substitute rice for soybeans in the first half of 1997/98 as they try to boost rice production since rice output also was reduced by the drought. Harvested area in 1997/98 is estimated at 1.2 million hectares, down marginally from 1996/97. Yield is estimated at a record 1.22 tons per hectare which follows an upward yield trend.

Canada: Soybean production for 1997/98 is estimated at 2.7 million tons, up 25 percent from a year earlier. Development of increased crushing capacity has encouraged domestic production. Area harvested increased 22 percent, to 1.1 million hectares in 1997/98. Favorable prices and poor planting conditions for winter wheat in the fall of 1996 and for corn in the spring of 1997 limited area planted. Domestic demand for the 1998/99 crop likely will remain strong, but better planting conditions for alternative crops and lower world prices will likely be negative factors for the 1998/99 crop. Area and Production estimates for the 1998/99 oilseeds crop will be made available in July 1998.

United States: Soybean production for the 1997/98 crop is estimated by the National Agricultural Statistics Service at a record 74.2 million tons, up 14 percent from 1996/97. Production is estimated higher based on increased area and yield. Harvested area increased 10 percent, to 28.3 million hectares, while yield climbed 4 percent, to 2.6 tons per hectare. Growing conditions for the crop were generally favorable. Drought conditions during mid-summer caused crop stress in the Mid-Atlantic Region. The average planting date for 1997/98 was well ahead of the previous two years and the soybean harvest progressed slightly ahead of the five-year-average.

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Chart 1

World Soybean Area and Production

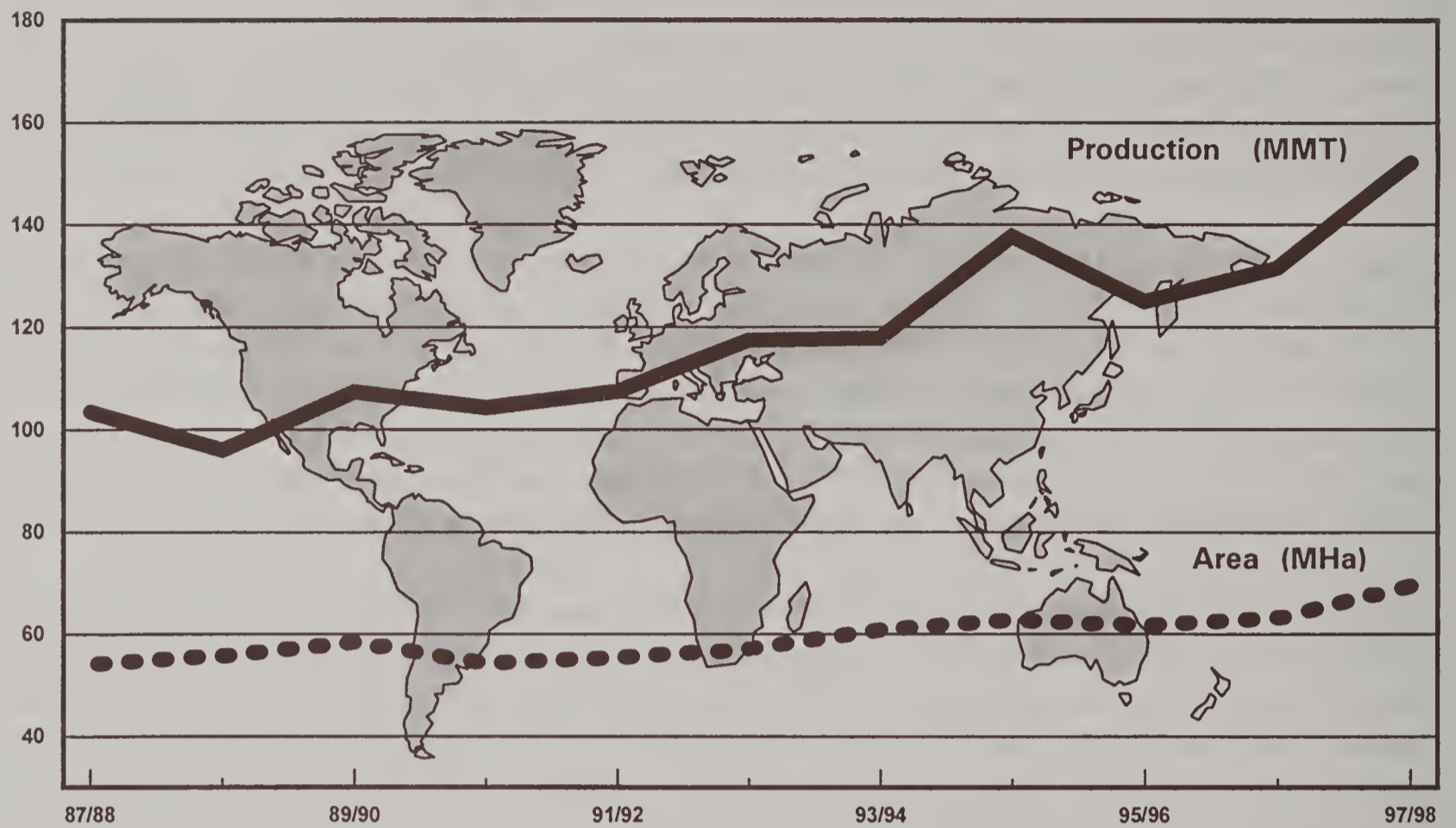


Chart 2

World Soybean Production

MMT

by Major Countries

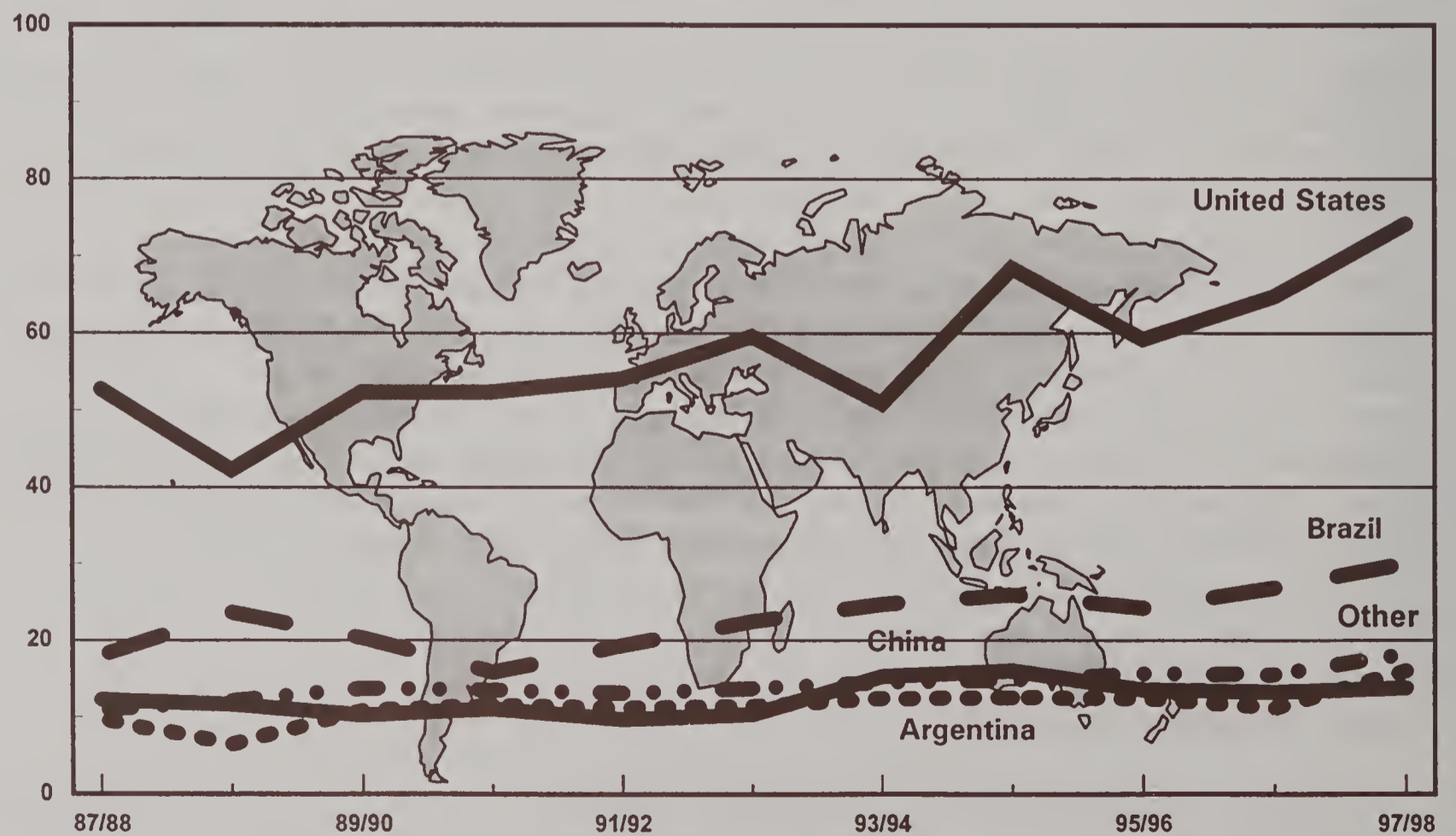


TABLE 20

WORLD SOYBEAN AREA

(1,000 Hectares)

	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97 P	1997/98 F
Argentina	4,260	4,000	4,950	4,750	4,800	4,900	5,400	5,700	5,980	6,200	6,800
Australia	46	71	49	40	29	32	39	17	32	39	62
Austria	0	6	9	9	15	53	54	47	14	13	15
Bolivia	83	144	173	195	193	240	330	393	445	547	630
Brazil	10,550	12,150	11,550	9,750	9,700	10,625	11,440	11,680	10,950	11,800	12,900
Bulgaria	36	40	40	17	10	11	21	9	15	16	6
Burma	34	36	35	33	34	38	40	53	60	77	90
Canada	461	533	540	484	598	623	720	820	824	860	1,050
China	8,445	8,120	8,034	7,560	7,041	7,221	9,454	9,222	8,127	7,470	8,250
Colombia	61	93	112	100	47	53	57	45	36	35	30
Ecuador	55	62	60	57	58	58	81	90	75	32	90
Egypt	50	50	39	41	42	22	18	23	26	15	15
France	79	92	135	117	62	41	55	100	100	85	100
Guatemala	12	13	13	15	20	26	15	14	15	16	18
Hungary	36	66	54	33	25	28	16	12	10	12	13
India	1,543	1,734	2,253	2,564	3,185	3,627	4,250	4,025	4,817	5,000	5,600
Indonesia	1,100	1,177	1,205	1,275	1,555	1,470	1,407	1,477	1,280	1,180	1,150
Iran	50	50	50	50	50	50	85	86	87	87	87
Italy	481	432	477	521	413	355	170	198	172	230	300
Japan	163	162	152	146	141	110	87	61	69	70	70
Korea, North	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	320	325	325
Korea, South	154	145	157	152	119	105	117	122	105	98	100
Mexico	390	139	468	276	340	305	238	288	133	60	140
Moldova	32	39	37	27	20	25	25	25	25	25	25
Nigeria	44	55	68	75	468	513	543	593	620	659	650
Paraguay	615	850	980	890	900	980	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,300
Romania	350	340	512	190	108	166	77	64	73	80	60
Russia	619	598	651	675	664	645	625	577	485	487	390
South Africa	44	44	61	87	83	45	55	65	68	87	125
Thailand	303	392	502	408	318	343	343	342	284	285	280
Turkey	112	60	100	60	50	50	40	50	45	40	40
Ukraine	74	76	105	88	102	97	70	43	23	25	25
United States	23,137	23,218	24,094	22,870	23,477	23,566	23,208	24,629	24,938	25,661	28,281
Vietnam	118	103	100	110	101	97	120	132	121	130	130
Yugoslavia	105	110	88	91	63	95	83	77	67	94	84
Zambia	26	32	38	39	35	32	32	32	25	25	25
Zimbabwe	65	71	68	58	45	32	52	71	59	65	70
Others	138	149	141	140	111	114	78	66	64	58	61
WORLD TOTAL	54,211	55,792	58,440	54,333	55,362	57,133	60,835	62,688	61,689	63,188	69,387

P-preliminary F-forecast

April 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

TABLE 21

WORLD SOYBEAN YIELD

	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97 P	1997/98 F
(Metric tons per hectare)											
Argentina	2.277	1.625	2.172	2.421	2.323	2.316	2.296	2.193	2.079	1.806	2.353
Australia	1.478	1.817	1.571	1.550	2.172	1.594	2.103	2.000	2.281	2.128	1.839
Austria	0.000	2.000	1.111	1.889	2.467	1.736	2.315	2.234	2.214	2.077	2.200
Bolivia	1.699	2.042	1.329	2.010	1.596	2.138	2.227	2.061	2.022	1.828	2.000
Brazil	1.708	1.942	1.761	1.615	1.990	2.118	2.159	2.217	2.205	2.271	2.326
Bulgaria	0.944	1.000	1.000	0.882	1.900	1.818	0.762	1.000	1.000	0.625	1.000
Burma	0.794	0.778	0.800	0.788	0.794	0.789	0.800	0.792	0.833	0.831	0.833
Canada	2.755	2.163	2.257	2.607	2.441	2.335	2.571	2.745	2.783	2.517	2.571
China	1.443	1.434	1.273	1.455	1.379	1.426	1.619	1.735	1.661	1.770	1.673
Colombia	1.885	1.903	1.893	1.940	2.043	2.132	1.912	2.089	2.056	2.000	1.667
Ecuador	1.673	1.645	1.667	1.754	1.724	1.379	1.765	2.156	1.133	1.250	1.222
Egypt	2.800	2.600	2.333	2.585	2.857	2.682	2.778	2.913	2.462	2.600	2.667
France	2.354	2.478	2.222	2.111	2.339	1.610	2.364	2.600	2.600	2.824	2.800
Guatemala	2.167	2.154	2.462	2.467	2.450	2.462	3.067	2.857	2.933	2.688	2.667
Hungary	1.806	1.576	2.148	1.333	2.320	1.393	1.563	1.917	2.000	2.333	2.308
India	0.582	0.892	0.802	1.015	0.782	0.856	0.941	0.804	0.929	0.820	0.955
Indonesia	1.000	1.092	1.091	1.098	1.125	1.156	1.112	1.137	1.185	1.186	1.217
Iran	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.800	1.529	1.535	1.540	1.540	1.540
Italy	3.304	3.259	3.405	3.361	3.196	3.000	3.182	3.293	3.709	3.783	3.667
Japan	1.761	1.710	1.789	1.507	1.397	1.709	1.161	1.623	1.725	1.714	1.714
Korea, North	1.294	1.294	1.294	1.294	1.294	1.176	1.176	1.176	1.250	1.231	1.077
Korea, South	1.318	1.648	1.605	1.533	1.538	1.676	1.453	1.262	1.524	1.633	1.560
Mexico	1.923	2.158	2.103	2.054	2.112	1.875	2.088	1.816	1.429	1.000	1.250
Moldova	1.156	1.359	1.378	0.889	1.000	1.400	1.200	1.000	1.200	1.200	1.200
Nigeria	0.909	1.000	0.882	0.867	0.310	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.310	0.320	0.308
Paraguay	1.789	1.900	1.607	1.461	1.444	1.786	1.714	2.000	2.182	2.250	2.231
Romania	1.000	1.000	0.594	0.742	1.657	0.759	1.234	1.438	1.479	1.438	2.000
Russia	0.874	1.129	1.134	1.062	0.940	0.783	0.795	0.730	0.598	0.579	0.564
South Africa	1.909	1.591	1.770	1.448	0.819	1.356	1.309	0.892	1.176	1.379	1.400
Thailand	1.116	1.319	1.339	1.299	1.368	1.399	1.399	1.316	1.296	1.263	1.286
Turkey	1.071	1.167	1.200	2.000	1.800	1.800	1.750	1.800	1.667	1.625	1.500
Ukraine	1.149	1.329	1.181	1.125	1.324	0.784	0.857	0.698	1.304	0.800	0.800
United States	2.280	1.816	2.173	2.292	2.303	2.530	2.194	2.781	2.376	2.527	2.625
Vietnam	0.814	0.825	0.820	0.791	0.792	0.825	0.883	0.947	1.041	1.038	1.038
Yugoslavia	2.257	1.636	2.375	1.670	2.460	1.484	1.542	1.701	2.149	2.021	2.381
Zambia	1.231	1.063	0.947	1.154	0.857	1.094	1.094	1.094	1.600	1.160	1.400
Zimbabwe	1.831	1.704	1.765	1.672	0.933	2.344	1.942	1.085	1.864	1.862	1.429
Others	1.312	1.282	1.525	1.500	1.450	1.535	1.436	1.606	1.531	1.586	1.607
WORLD TOTAL	1.910	1.721	1.836	1.918	1.939	2.055	1.937	2.197	2.026	2.082	2.194

P-preliminary F-forecast

April 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

TABLE 22

WORLD SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

(1,000 Metric tons)

	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97 P	1997/98 F
Argentina	9,700	6,500	10,750	11,500	11,150	11,350	12,400	12,500	12,430	11,200	16,000
Australia	68	129	77	62	63	51	82	34	73	83	114
Austria	0	12	10	17	37	92	125	105	31	27	33
Bolivia	141	294	230	392	308	513	735	810	900	1,000	1,260
Brazil	18,020	23,600	20,340	15,750	19,300	22,500	24,700	25,900	24,150	26,800	30,000
Bulgaria	34	40	40	15	19	20	16	9	15	10	6
Burma	27	28	28	26	27	30	32	42	50	64	75
Canada	1,270	1,153	1,219	1,262	1,460	1,455	1,851	2,251	2,293	2,165	2,700
China	12,184	11,645	10,227	11,000	9,710	10,300	15,310	16,000	13,500	13,220	13,800
Colombia	115	177	212	194	96	113	109	94	74	70	50
Ecuador	92	102	100	100	100	80	143	194	85	40	110
Egypt	140	130	91	106	120	59	50	67	64	39	40
France	186	228	300	247	145	66	130	260	260	240	280
Guatemala	26	28	32	37	49	64	46	40	44	43	48
Hungary	65	104	116	44	58	39	25	23	20	28	30
India	898	1,547	1,806	2,602	2,492	3,106	4,000	3,236	4,476	4,100	5,350
Indonesia	1,100	1,285	1,315	1,400	1,750	1,700	1,565	1,680	1,517	1,400	1,400
Iran	90	90	90	90	90	90	130	132	134	134	134
Italy	1,589	1,408	1,624	1,751	1,320	1,065	541	652	638	870	1,100
Japan	287	277	272	220	197	188	101	99	119	120	120
Korea, North	440	440	440	440	440	400	400	400	400	400	350
Korea, South	203	239	252	233	183	176	170	154	160	160	156
Mexico	750	300	984	567	718	572	497	523	190	60	175
Moldova	37	53	51	24	20	35	30	25	30	30	30
Nigeria	40	55	60	65	145	154	163	178	192	211	200
Paraguay	1,100	1,615	1,575	1,300	1,300	1,750	1,800	2,200	2,400	2,700	2,900
Romania	350	340	304	141	179	126	95	92	108	115	120
Russia	541	675	738	717	624	505	497	421	290	282	220
South Africa	84	70	108	126	68	61	72	58	80	120	175
Thailand	338	517	672	530	435	480	480	450	368	360	360
Turkey	120	70	120	120	90	90	70	90	75	65	60
Ukraine	85	101	124	99	135	76	60	30	30	20	20
United States	52,746	42,153	52,354	52,416	54,065	59,612	50,919	68,493	59,243	64,837	74,224
Vietnam	96	85	82	87	80	80	106	125	126	135	135
Yugoslavia	237	180	209	152	155	141	128	131	144	190	200
Zambia	32	34	36	45	30	35	35	35	40	29	35
Zimbabwe	119	121	120	97	42	75	101	77	110	121	100
Others	181	191	215	210	161	175	112	106	98	92	98
WORLD TOTAL	103,531	96,016	107,323	104,184	107,361	117,424	117,826	137,716	124,957	131,580	152,208

P-preliminary F-forecast

April 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division

SOUTH AFRICA 1997/98 GRAIN SITUATION

The outlook for South Africa's 1997/98 grain and oilseed production is good. Widespread, timely rainfall and warm temperatures in February and March boosted the yield potential for all summer crops, which mostly are now reaching maturity and will be harvested over the next two months. Farmers had reduced planted area for many crops in response to forecasts of drought associated with El Nino, but the weather was better than expected. Planting conditions for 1998/99 winter crops are favorable.

Corn Situation: Corn production for 1997/98 is estimated at 8.0 million tons, up 0.5 million from last month, but down 1.0 million or 11 percent from last year. This includes an estimated 7.5 million tons from the commercial sector and 0.5 million from the developing areas. The forecast yield of 2.76 tons per hectare is above the 5-year average and higher than last year. Contrary to many early forecasts, the effect of the 1997/98 El Niño on South Africa's corn yields appears minimal.

Corn area is estimated at 2.9 million hectares, down 460,000 hectares or 14 percent from last year. Dryness in November and December caused planting delays in Free State and North West Province, and fears of El Nino-related drought in 1998 caused farmers in many areas to reduce corn area or shift to drought-tolerant crops. The corn crop is normally divided about equally between white corn, used for human consumption, and yellow varieties, used primarily for animal feed. This year, farmers chose to maintain white corn area near last year's level and cut back on yellow corn area. About 60 percent of the total corn area is planted to white corn. Heavy rainfall in late-December and early January improved moisture conditions considerably, encouraging a surge of yellow corn planting in Free State and Northwest. There were concerns that a drought in February or an early frost in April would limit the yield potential of this late-planted corn, but the weather has been favorably wet and warm during the growing season and good yields are predicted.

South Africa's recent conversion to a free market for corn is still causing uncertainty for South African farmers. The end of the controlled marketing system for corn and the closing of the Maize Board opened up the domestic market to international competition, and also took away the one-channel marketing system which guaranteed farmers a minimum price for their crop. It exposed the producer to international price levels and they responded by planting a higher percentage of white corn, which can be sold for a higher price on the domestic market.

Wheat Situation: Wheat production in 1997/98 is estimated at 2.3 million tons, down from an average crop of 2.5 million. The crop was of poor quality due to heavy rain during the harvest. Planting for the 1998/99 wheat crop will begin over the next few months. South Africa's Winter Grain Producers Organization has warned farmers to be cautious when they plant wheat this year. The wheat situation is uncertain because of large carryover stocks, large imports of high-quality wheat, and a poor price outlook. However, the current high soil moisture levels may tempt farmers to plant more wheat this winter, leading to a local oversupply situation next year.

The domestic wheat market is still adjusting to deregulation after decades of state control. The Wheat Board, which had been the sole buyer and marketer of wheat for many years, closed at the end

of last season in October.

Other Crops: Dry weather in December caused a drop in sorghum and peanut area, but farmers increased their plantings of sunflowers and soybeans, which are considered to be more tolerant to drought. The area of horticulture crops and cotton was not expected to change significantly since these crops are grown under irrigation and water supplies were sufficient. Normal to above-normal oilseed yields are projected due to favorable weather.

South Africa: Grain Production

<u>Corn</u>	Area (1000 Ha)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (1000 MT)
1987/88	3,657	2.10	7,670
1988/89	3,778	3.30	12,480
1989/90	3,475	2.64	9,180
1990/91	3,026	2.85	8,615
1991/92	3,452	0.95	3,275
1992/93	3,660	2.73	9,990
1993/94	3,900	3.40	13,275
1994/95	2,952	1.64	4,845
1995/96	3,300	3.09	10,200
1996/97	3,360	2.68	9,012
1997/98	2,900	2.76	8,000

<u>Wheat</u>	Area (1000 Ha)	Yield (Mt/Ha)	Production (1000 MT)
1987/88	1,729	1.81	3,135
1988/89	1,985	1.78	3,535
1989/90	1,831	1.11	2,026
1990/91	1,550	1.10	1,702
1991/92	1,433	1.49	2,132
1992/93	743	1.77	1,318
1993/94	1,065	1.85	1,975
1994/95	1,035	1.77	1,832
1995/96	1,363	1.43	1,950
1996/97	1,294	2.09	2,700
1997/98	1,382	1.65	2,283

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1998/99 WINTER GRAIN PROSPECTS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

This article presents early indications of Northern Hemisphere winter grain prospects outside the United States based on reports from U.S. agricultural attaches stationed overseas and analysis by Washington-based USDA personnel. A special thanks goes to the World Agricultural Outlook Board/Joint Agricultural Weather Facility who have continually supplied FAS with world agricultural weather information and analyses. The first forecast of 1998/99 area, yield, and production for grains will be published in the May "World Agricultural Production" Circular.

SUMMARY: Total winter grain area for 1998/99, outside of the United States, most likely will be similar to the level achieved last season. In the European Union (EU), area is projected higher for winter wheat, but lower for barley due to strong wheat prices relative to barley. Crop prospects are favorable except in Portugal and Spain where excessive rain during the fall delayed or prevented planting. For Eastern Europe, area is projected lower as rain and snow along with cold temperatures in late-October and early-November delayed winter grain plantings in southeastern Europe. Also, there were numerous harvest problems with the 1997 crop, leading to quality problems and low prices. Initial crop prospects are likely below last season's level. In Russia, winter grain area is reported to be near last season's level, although above-normal precipitation in the fall of 1997 in southern Russia hampered plantings. With the exception of a cold snap in mid-December overwintering conditions were generally favorable for grain. In Ukraine, winter grain area is projected below last season's level due to untimely rain and a delayed harvest of a bumper corn crop. Unseasonably cold fall weather limited crop establishment of late-planted winter grains. After a mild winter, cool temperatures overspread Ukraine in mid-March causing winter grains to remain dormant, and an adequate snow cover reportedly kept winterkill below-average. Yield prospects are generally favorable for Russia, but down for Ukraine. For India, excessive rain in the Fall caused planting delays and limited area to below grower's intentions. However, cool, mild weather across the main northern growing areas during the spring improved crop prospects. In Pakistan, area is reportedly higher than last season and crop prospects are favorable. In spite of excessive rainfall at planting which caused localized flooding, the crop benefitted from cool temperatures and timely rains. In China, area is expected to be similar to last season. The fall of 1997 was drier-than-normal in some parts of the North China Plain, but the combination of above-normal winter rain and a mild winter favored crops. Initial yield prospects are seen below last season's record level. In the Middle East, grain area is projected to be similar in Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Crop prospects are generally favorable across the region. In Northwest Africa, area is projected above last season's drought reduced level. Favorable rainfall at planting allowed producers to expand area; however, a drying trend since January across the region has stressed crops. Crop prospects are guarded and timely rainfall is needed for the remainder of the growing season to prevent further decline in crop conditions. In Canada, crop prospects are favorable for winter wheat due to a mild winter. Winter wheat area is higher for 1998/99, but comprises less than 5 percent of the total Canadian wheat crop. In Mexico, area is projected higher than last season and irrigation supplies appear to be near last season's level.

European Union (EU): Winter grain area for 1998/99 in the EU likely will be slightly higher than last season. Due to relatively strong wheat prices versus barley, producers are expected move some of

their area from barley into wheat. In the United Kingdom, Germany, and France winter wheat area increased again this season and crop prospects are favorable. Moisture conditions during the Fall of 1997 in the northern half of Europe was favorable for winter crop planting and establishment. A unusually mild winter provided favorable overwintering conditions. Although topsoils in France are slightly drier than normal, moisture over the rest of northern Europe is favorable for spring growth. In Italy, winter wheat plantings are higher than last season; however, a lack of planting moisture in the Po Valley lowered emergence prospects and limited moisture for plant establishment. The winter was mild, but continued below-normal rainfall in the Po Valley limited soil moisture recharge. Spring rains are needed to improve crop potential. In Spain and Portugal, winter grain area is lower than last season since excessively wet weather prevented some planned winter grain plantings in the Fall. Wet weather continued in December, causing further delays in winter grain plantings and localized flooding. Although a drying trend in February and early March raised concerns about potential declines in crop conditions, scattered showers fell in this region in late March. In Sweden and Finland, area is projected higher and the growing season has been generally favorable to date.

EASTERN EUROPE: For Eastern Europe, winter grain sowings for 1998/99 are projected much lower than last year. In Poland, winter grain area is marginally below a year ago. Planting conditions were generally favorable, but bitter cold temperatures (December 17 - 19) threatened winter crops. The extreme cold was of short duration and was preceded by snow, which minimized widespread damage. Mostly favorable weather followed through the balance of winter and into early-spring. Crop prospects are favorable. In Romania winter grain area is lower than last season as unusually cold weather along with an early snowfall stalled planting. Dry weather, a lack of available funds and planting machinery contributed to significant planting delays in Bulgaria. In December, the same cold weather event that hit Poland also affected Romania and Bulgaria; however, no significant damage was reported. While the remainder of winter was mild, rainfall was below-normal. Crop prospects are generally well below earlier levels. For the Czech Republic, winter grain area is projected up from last season, and crop prospects are generally favorable following a mild winter. In Hungary and Yugoslavia, area is similar to or slightly below last season. In Hungary, crop prospects are guarded owing to a dry fall and an abnormally dry winter. In Yugoslavia, winter grain prospects are likely below last season's level, due to planting delays, input shortages, and weak prices.

FSU: Russian winter grain area for 1998/99 is expected to roughly matched last season's 13.0 million hectares, and less re-seeding will be necessary because of lower winterkill. Establishment and overwintering conditions were generally favorable, with adequate moisture. There was a brief episode of bitterly cold weather in mid-December in southern Russia which likely caused some damage in areas where snow cover was patchy, but this was limited. Russia's Federal Weather Center reported that overall winterkill for the country was only 8 to 10 percent of total sown winter grain area compared to nearly 13 percent last season. Heavy rains in February caused flooding in Russia's Krasnodar Kray and damaged some of the crop.

Winter grain yields will hinge on weather conditions in coming weeks, but will be pressed to match last year's level, when winter grain yield was the highest in five years. Application of fertilizer and plant-protection agents likely will remain at below-optimum levels, as farmers continue to struggle with cash shortages. Furthermore, plantings fell nearly 20 percent in the high-yielding North Caucasus Region because wet weather interfered with the final stages of the fall sowing campaign.

In Ukraine, winter grain area for 1998/99 is forecast much lower than last year. October rainfall and the delayed harvest of a bumper corn crop impeded winter grain planting during the final stages of the sowing campaign, and sown area fell considerably short of the 8-million-hectare target. Winter wheat typically comprises roughly 90 percent of winter grain area. Reports from the U.S. agricultural counselor in Kiev indicate that winterkill was above normal this season in Ukraine's southern, eastern, and central grain-growing areas. Winter barley in southern Ukraine was especially hard hit by the December cold snap, with damage estimated at 400,000 hectares. According to the agricultural counselor, yields are expected to be down sharply from last year due largely to the continuing deterioration in the availability of inputs, and growers inability to purchase them.

INDIA: In India, winter grain sowings for 1998/99 are projected below last season's record level. The 1998 wheat planting got off to a poor start due to heavy rains in the entire wheat belt during the optimal planting period of November through mid-December. Almost 40 percent of planting took place in late-December and stretched into January. In some parts of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh, planting was delayed until late-January due to continuous rains and water logging. Cyclones during the first week of December and hail storms in eastern Uttar Pradesh and parts of Bihar caused some damage to the newly planted wheat and other rabi crops (pulses, oilseeds) thereby necessitating re-planting. Most of the decline in area is confined to the state of Bihar. Delayed planting earlier in the season and slower crop development, due to below average temperatures in February and March, will delay grain filling. There was much concern earlier that the grain filling stage would overlap with the period of higher temperatures and reduce yields. However, the growing period has remained relatively mild and crop prospects have improved.

PAKISTAN: Winter grain output for 1998/99 in Pakistan is projected to be larger than last season. Crop prospects are favorable due to increased use of phosphatic fertilizer, better seeding rate, and unprecedented favorable weather at the initial stages of crop development. One setback this season was the delayed planting of wheat in 10 percent of the growing areas due to delays in harvesting earlier crops in the rotation. The wheat crop to be harvested between March and May of 1998 was planted with above normal soil moisture reserves and received additional favorable winter rains. These widespread and timely rains of 1998 have resulted in an exceptionally good crop stand in the rainfed areas, comprising of 16 percent of Pakistan's wheat area. Relatively low temperatures up to the first week of March were conducive for tillering of late-planted crops. From now until the harvest, a very gradual increase in temperature and a reduction in the intensity of rainfall are required for optimum grain filling. In general, the number of tillers per plant are significantly above normal this year, indicating good yield prospects.

CHINA: Wheat area in China for 1998/99 is projected to be similar to last season, although there are reports of some farmers shifting their wheat area into rapeseed. Winter wheat planting was delayed by a dryness in the autumn of 1997 that affected more than ten million hectares of farmland in northern and central China, and low soil moisture availability resulted in poor germination in several areas. Widespread rain in November improved crop conditions prior to dormancy, but tillers were reported in weaker condition than last year. Winter temperatures were generally mild. The only outbreak of extremely cold weather occurred in mid-January, when the crops were fully dormant and protected from damage. Temperatures quickly rebounded, and unusually warm weather in February caused winter grains to emerge from dormancy seven to ten days ahead of schedule. Widespread rainfall in February and March provided beneficial moisture for emerging and vegetative crops across

the northern plains, although western winter grain areas remained drier than normal through March. Central China received unusually heavy rain throughout the winter and spring, leading to concerns about possible flooding, water logging, and disease. The region also was affected by a late-March cold spell which brought sub-freezing temperatures as far south as the Yangtze River and caused minor damage to winter crops. Overall yield prospects for 1998/99 are good given normal temperatures and rainfall during the critical months of April and May. About 80 percent of the total wheat crop is irrigated to some extent and approximately 90 percent of all wheat is winter wheat.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: The 1998/99 crop area in Northwestern Africa is projected to be larger than last season's drought-reduced level. However, after favorable planting conditions, the weather turned unfavorable for the crops. Above-normal rainfall in Morocco's northern growing regions allowed for widespread planting of the winter grain crops and allowed producers to achieve their planting intentions. However, insufficient precipitation since February has diminished soil moisture reserves and stressed the crop. In western and central Algeria, adequate planting moisture was followed by dry conditions which have prevailed since December. Above average conditions in eastern Algeria will not offset the poor outlook for the wheat and barley crops. Tunisian farmers were encouraged by early-season rainfall and managed to increase plantings significantly over last year's levels. Scattered, light precipitation throughout the growing season has helped Tunisia to maintain a more favorable crop outlook than in neighboring countries. The Northwest African winter grain crop is in the critical heading stage during March and April. April weather patterns will be crucial for the recovery of an already stressed crop.

MIDDLE EAST: Winter grain area in Saudi Arabia for 1998/99 is projected to be similar to last year's level. Although the Grain Silos and Flour Mills Organization (GSFMO) has reportedly not announced wheat and barley quotas for this production season, it is expected to remain unchanged. GSFMO policy over the past few years has been to target wheat production to meet domestic needs only. Producers are not expected to meet the barley quota due to a narrowing gap between production support prices and production costs. The crops are primarily grown by small-scale farmers and are 100 percent irrigated. Harvest extends from the end of April into June. For Turkey, winter grain area is projected up slightly from a year ago. Wheat area will most likely expand at the expense of barley due to higher support prices for wheat and reduced pest problems. About 40 percent of the wheat crop is grown in Central Anatolia, and the remainder spread throughout the country. Evenly distributed rainfall and near normal temperatures aided crop plantings and establishment. Relatively warm and adequate to abundant moisture since autumn also was beneficial for the crop. However, a cold snap in late-March caused some burn back in western Turkey. Crop prospects are generally favorable at this time, and rainfall from now until May is the single most important determinant of yield. In Syria, winter grain area is projected lower than last year. Rainfall at planting was adequate and the winter was relatively mild. However, since January a drying trend is causing concern for yield prospects. A warm-up of temperatures in late-February followed by freezing weather in March has put additional pressure on the wheat and barley crops. About 40 percent of the wheat is irrigated, producing about 70 percent of the crop, while nearly all the barley is rainfed. Precipitation and a return to normal temperatures is needed to prevent further crop stress.

NORTH AMERICA: In Canada, the 1998/99 winter wheat area is reportedly higher than last season due to good fall planting conditions, a return to wheat after rotations were disrupted by fusarium problems, and a normal (not delayed) soybean harvest. The crops experienced a mild winter and only minimal winterkill is expected. (The northern fringe of the growing area in Ontario had a cold weather event in March, but is not expected to have caused much damage.) The winter wheat crop comprises less than 5 percent of Canada's total wheat crop. The Prairie Provinces are dependent upon spring rainfall to provide soil moisture for the summer crops. In Mexico, the 1998/99 wheat area is projected to be larger than last season due to favorable autumn weather. Rainfall in the northwest during the fall was above normal, which maintained reservoir levels. However, reservoir levels remain relatively low due to previous seasons below-normal rainfall. Rainfall was normal throughout the winter in the northwest, but below normal in the central plateau of Mexico. March rainfall has been below normal throughout the wheat growing areas and additional rainfall is needed in April for normal crop development. About 70 percent of the total wheat area is spring-harvested and grown in the north.

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